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>Issue 211 August 2009

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PLUS! iPhone 3GS Full review of the latest iPhone

Safari File Edit View History Bookmarks Window Help
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Apple – Mac OS X Snow Leopard – The world's most advanced OS
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Why you'll love Apple's turbo-charged notebooks!

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IN-DEPTH ADVICE

Snow Leopard

Six-page hands-on preview

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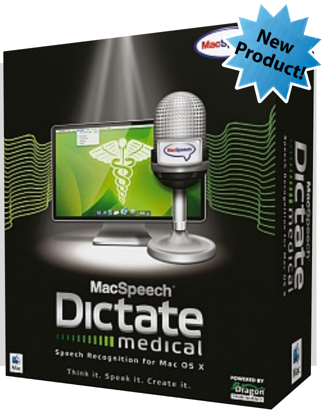
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Despite the new iPhone 3GS and new MacBook Pros being released at Apple's WWDC keynote in June, for me it was the preview of OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard that was the highlight. Maybe it's because I'm a self-confessed Mac geek, but I feel more excited about Snow Leopard's September release than a six year old eyeing-up a bike-shaped parcel underneath the Christmas tree. I know Snow Leopard is just a refinement to OS X 10.5 Leopard, rather than a 'proper' new release of OS X, but the thing is, that's exactly what I want!

Promises of a faster, more responsive *Finder*, more reliable disk ejecting, new fonts and video-editing capabilities in the new *QuickTime X* make me giddy. You see, while Apple pushes the fact a Mac running OS X is a million times less frustrating to use than a PC, I still find OS X is packed full of tiny, tiny little annoyances. If Snow Leopard zaps the things that keeps me up at night having nightmares about endlessly spinning beach balls then I'll be happy.

Read more about what Snow Leopard will do for you on page 66. And don't miss our reviews this month of the new MacBook Pros and the iPhone 3GS, starting on page 80. We're back again on 19 August with more Mac tips and tricks. See you then!

Graham Barlow, Editor
graham.barlow@futurenet.com
twitter.com/MacFormat

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Technical wizard

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The world's most advanced operating system. Finely tuned.
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SNOW LEOPARD

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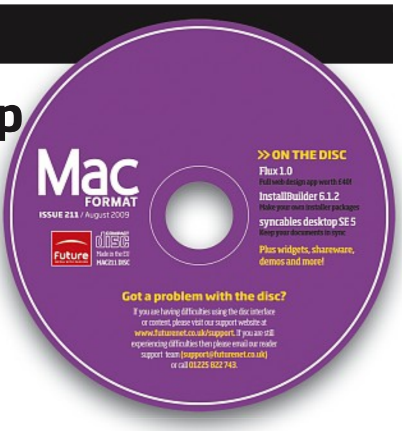
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iPhone 3GS is in the building

With great new features the iPhone 3GS is set to expand Apple's reach

Relatively modest queues welcomed the launch of Apple's iPhone 3GS (the S stands for speed) in June. The fastest, most powerful and best-featured model yet launch-weekend sales were impressive.

O2 sold more of the new model by lunchtime than it sold iPhone 3Gs across the entire launch day last year.

Carphone Warehouse confirmed sales had "surpassed expectations". CEO Andrew Harrison said, "We received 18,000 pre-registration enquiries for the handset – the best response of any handset yet."

Piper Jaffray analyst, Gene Munster, estimates Apple sold half a million of the new smartphone on the first weekend of sale. In the US, AT&T reported pre-orders numbering hundreds of thousands of the device. "We actually have hundreds of thousands of customers that have [pre-] ordered their iPhone and will be coming in to pick it up at the stores today," AT&T Mobility President and CEO Ralph de la Vega told CNBC.

The *LA Times* noted that smaller launch crowds were likely because of Apple and its partners enabling online pre-ordering for the device, which had not been offered in the past.

Introducing
iPhone 3G S
The fastest, most powerful iPhone yet.

© Getty Images

The iPhone 3GS beats iPhone 3G on launch day sales, O2 confirms.

iSuppli analyst Tina Teng predicts Apple will sell 18.7 million iPhones in 2009, securing a 10% share of global smartphone sales as a result. Last year the company sold 13.7 million iPhones to secure 8.4% of the market.

As *MacFormat* explains in the review on page 83, the new iPhone's laden with attractive new features, including a 3-megapixel video camera, longer battery life, hands-free voice control, a built-in voice-recording application, GPS and much faster performance. The device also runs new iPhone Software 3.0, which has also

NEWS IN BRIEF

Secret op...

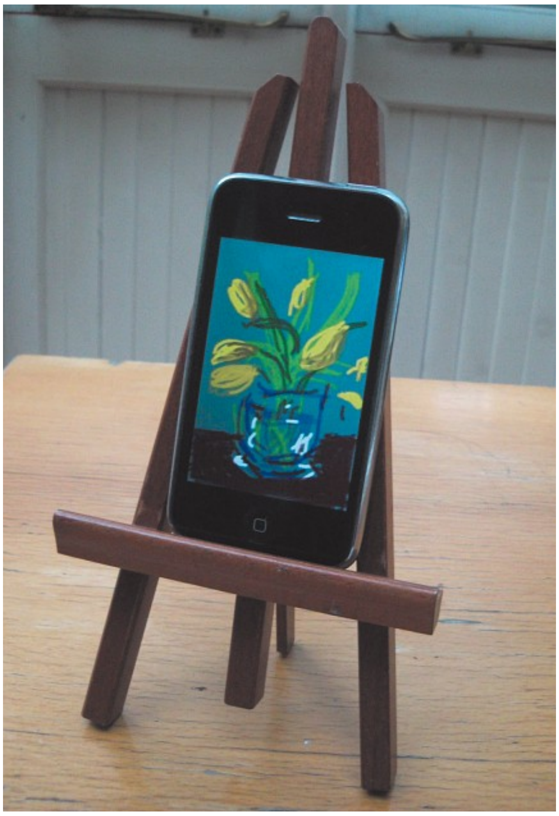
Apple CEO Steve Jobs is back at work. He has also revealed that he had a liver transplant "about two months ago". This was because of ongoing complications from a previous bout of pancreatic cancer in 2004. Jobs took a medical leave of absence in January, but returned to work last month, part time. *MacFormat* would like to join with the Mac community welcoming him back to work.

APPLE IN PICTURES / iPhone says it with flowers

ARTY GIFT

"I draw flowers by hand on the iPhone and send them to friends so they get fresh flowers," says David Hockney.

Image courtesy: London Evening Standard.



been made available for upgrading older iPhones, and adds more than 100 new features, including MMS messaging, Spotlight search and copy and paste.

Apple released the software on June 17. As with last year's iPhone Software 2.0 release, millions of existing iPhone and iPod touch owners worldwide attempted to upgrade their devices, this intermittently turned out to be too much for Apple's servers to handle. While this was noted, most customers remained calm and waited to upgrade. Problems were by no means as widespread as they were last year, partially because the company shipped the new phone two days later.

Prior to the release Apple encouraged developers to upgrade their apps for the new software, however, apps developed to access new features in the code weren't clearly identifiable on the App Store.

While the release of both iPhone and software were well-planned, UK users were frustrated that O2 did not offer existing customers an easy upgrade to the new models, insisting contract customers buy their way out of their previous iPhone contract, or recommending they acquire a Pay and Go model (£400+) and slot their existing O2 SIM card into the new device. "You can give your old iPhone to someone else," O2 advised...

Existing customers who upgraded faced certain problems enabling MMS messaging on O2. An investigation by the carrier revealed that customers facing this problem simply needed to make a few manual alterations to some of their settings, as detailed at http://tinyurl.com/mb3t5k.

Strong sales show these gripes didn't dent enthusiasm for new purchasers, with O2 revealing that the number of visitors to its stores on release day was ten times higher than average.

O2 and AT&T may yet lose their exclusive iPhone deal. US regulator the FCC has announced plans to investigate exclusive mobile phone deals such as these in order to ensure consumers "reap the benefits that a robust and innovative competitive marketplace can bestow." ●

APPLE IN NUMBERS

78%

US iPhone users who go online at least weekly.

"Somebody once told me the best camera is the one you have with you..."

Christopher Phin on one of the many reasons why it's worth going 3GS...

Apple talk

Who's saying what?

>Phil Schiller
www.apple.com
"With the iPhone and iPod touch, we've tripled the number of active users of OS X with these products (in the last two years)."
Is OS X the most exciting OS ever?

>David Pearl
www.eipny.com
"(Jobs) is a creative genius, without question. At the same time, the company is building itself for the day Steve isn't there."
The analysts say Apple can survive without Jobs

>PC
www.apple.com
"I hope you're thinking of some great ideas, because I'm thinking of some great ideas, psst, what are your ideas?"
Get A Mac star, PC (John Hodgman) gets desperate

>Hakim Kriout
www.grigsbyinc.com
"Apple's going for the jugular with Snow Leopard."
Exchange support and more trounce Windows OS

>Charlie Wolf
www.needhamco.com
"BlackBerry could be a loser in the upcoming smartphone apps war."
Is it game over for RIM?

Let us know if you've heard any great Apple quotes by emailing them to **macformat@futurenet.com**

>> IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Picturing an upgrade

Christopher Phin

When I got home on the evening of June 8 after covering the WWDC keynote live on **www.macformat.co.uk** (with a little help from the friendly readers who joined us in our chat; thanks, guys!) I was feeling less than euphoric about the iPhone 3GS. Sure, it's a nice bit of hardware, and the improved performance and features, plus the little touches, such as the silky, fingerprint-resisting oleophobic screen, are genuinely welcome – something that's become even more apparent as I've tested a review unit from O2. (Read Graham's official *MacFormat* verdict on p83.)

And yet, I was unlikely to upgrade my own iPhone 3G. Buying out my existing contract and getting a new model would have cost me a pretty penny; the one thing that would tempt me as a keen photographer is the improved camera. It's hardly groundbreaking; I've nothing against the resolution – even two megapixels is theoretically useful so long as the optics are up to scratch and the sensor's not too small – but the resulting pictures are only now getting to a stage where they compete with my beloved and long-retired Sony Ericsson K800i, launched three years ago.

> *"Buying out my existing iPhone contract and getting a new model would cost a pretty penny"*

And besides, I'm lucky enough to own a Canon EOS 400D, so, y'know, if I want to take photographs, it's not like I'm exactly struggling.

Then I remembered somebody once saying to me that the best camera is the one you have with you. It doesn't matter how much you've spent on bodies, lenses, flashes and all the rest: if your bulky SLR is at home on the shelf when your son takes his first steps, you've lost forever your chance to capture that special moment.

And that's why we have to keep demanding more from the cameras built into mobiles. They're devices that we carry with us everywhere, they're always charged, and now you can email or upload pics and videos in seconds.

Damn, it looks like I've as good as talked myself into the upgrade, after all … ●

Christopher Phin is starting an iPhone 3GS upgrade fund. If you see him, give him a fiver would you?

>> WWDC NEWS

Laptops get an update

For full reviews turn to p80

Apple's MacBooks go pro with latest laptops

Apple introduced new laptops at WWDC, including 13-inch MacBooks so good they've been re-branded "MacBook Pro".

This means the MacBook Pro range now includes 13-, 15- and 17-inch models, all with built-in batteries offering up to 40% more battery life (seven hours). These advanced batteries mean Mac users can expect support for up to 1,000 charges before they begin degrading – an industry benchmark, which means five years' use before a battery replacement is required.

All models boast an LED-backlit display, Multi-Touch trackpads, illuminated keyboard, an SD-card slot (but no ExpressCard slot, bar the 17-inch model) and a FireWire 800 slot. Graphics cards come from NVIDIA.

Replacing ExpressCard with SD generated criticism, but Senior VP Worldwide Product Marketing Phil Schiller said, "less than a single digit percentage of our customers" actually use ExpressCard.

These green machines all come with EPEAT Gold status and up to Energy Star 5.0 requirements. Greenpeace now regards Apple as one of the most environmentally friendly computer makers.

Six MacBook Pros are available, including two 13-inch, three 15-inch and a 17-inch models. Prices range from £899 (2.26GHz) to £1,849 (2.8GHz, 17-inch).

All MacBook Pros feature Apple's aluminum unibody design and can host up to 8GB of RAM and up to a 500GB hard drive or 256GB solid state drive. 15- and 17-inch MacBooks can be equipped with a 3.06GHz processor as an option.

Finally, all these Macs include a Mini DisplayPort suitable for the 24-inch Cinema Display. The £749 2.13GHz white MacBook remains available.

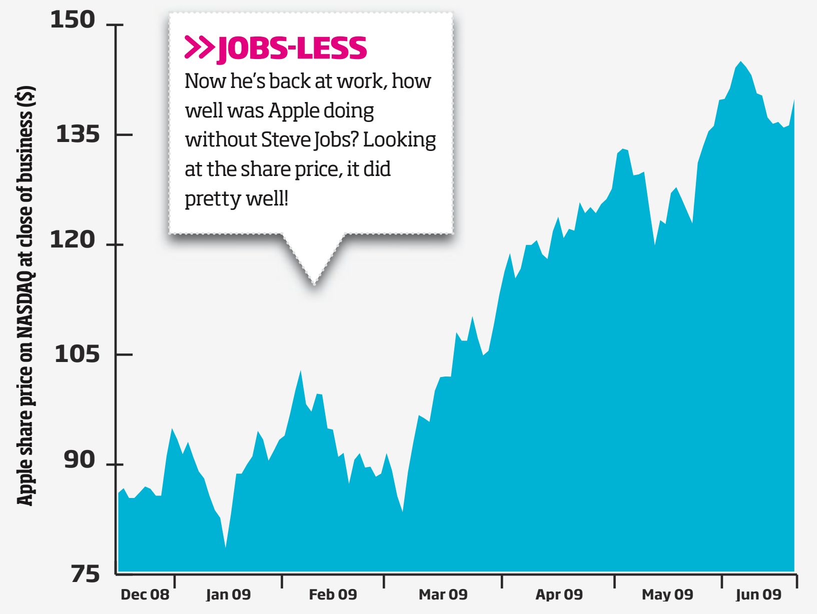
The MacBook Air also saw a revamp: £1,149 buys a 1.86GHz Intel Core 2 Duo system (120GB hard drive) while a 2.13GHz Intel Core 2 Duo system (128GB solid state drive) costs £1,349. All quoted prices include VAT. ●

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS

5th

The ranking of iPhone ownership in teens.

APPLE IN NUMBERS / Apple without Jobs



JOBS-LESS
Now he's back at work, how well was Apple doing without Steve Jobs? Looking at the share price, it did pretty well!

OS X UPDATE

Snow Leopard for September

The future of OS X is revealed at WWDC

Apple's growing, with OS X more widely used than ever, said Senior Vice President of Worldwide Product Marketing, Phil Schiller at WWDC.

The active installed OS X user base, boosted by the OS X iPhone and iPod touch, has tripled since 2007, reaching 75 million.

Speed and performance are key to September's $29 Snow Leopard upgrade, which promises 45% faster performance overall. Technologies like Grand Central and Open CL will help accelerate the true 64-bit OS.

Bertrand Serlet, Senior Vice President of Software Engineering said, "engineers have made hundreds of improvements so with Snow Leopard your system is going to feel faster, more responsive and even more reliable than before."

Not every Mac user's invited though and PowerPC Macs aren't supported. However, most elements of the OS have been perfected. This means a faster *Finder*, faster *Mail*, faster *Time Machine* backups and more. There's also an all-new *QuickTime X* with a redesigned player and the added capacity to record, trim and share video through YouTube, MobileMe or *iTunes*.

Snow Leopard will bring 3- and 4-finger Multi-Touch gestures to Multi-Touch notebooks that currently don't support all available gestures. Microsoft Exchange Server 2007 support will extend to *Mail*, *Address Book* and *iCal*. ●

APPLE IN NUMBERS

27.3%

Apple's share of UK education sales in Q1.

HOT OR NOT?

The latest word from the Apple rumour mill

HOT: Apple netbook looms?
Sure, we didn't see this appear at WWDC, but could this be the product launch that CEO, Steve Jobs does next? We don't know, but there's huge speculation…

HOT: One job for Jobs?
Steve Jobs's illness didn't just deprive Apple of its visionary CEO – it also cost it its chairman for a while. Speculation suggests Jobs may keep just one of these roles.

NOT: Glossy screen gone?
Rumours are that Apple will drop glossy screens after the Queensland University of Technology warned that using Macs with the offending shine could cause danger. Unlikely.

NOT: Apple to purchase TomTom?
TomTom stock rose after it announced iPhone navigation solutions. Rumours say Apple may invest in TomTom. However, Apple has rarely taken minority shares.

Apple on TV

The Mac is ready for its close-up

Watch out for *Crank 2: High Voltage*. Worth a mention is the hero of the piece, Chev Chelios, who now hosts a battery-powered heart that needs regular jolts of electricity to keep going, and naturally he keeps his iPhone charged!

If you've spotted a Mac on television, then email macformat@futurenet.com and tell us all about it!

>>ACROSS THE POND

At the end of my tether

Susie Ochs

WWDC was interesting both for what was announced, and for what was missing. We didn't get a Steve Jobs cameo. (How great would it have been if the iPhone 3GS demo video of the kids on the water slide ended with Steve taking a turn, turtleneck and all?) We didn't get a shoddy, sub-$500 Apple netbook, either, thank heavens.

Here's what was missing that shocked me: official tethering in the US. I've been following the current brouhaha in the UK over O2's decision to charge £15 extra per month for it. But at least you get it at launch! The keynote didn't even mention when we American customers could expect to catch up.

Senior VP Scott Forstall mentioned tethering, explained that it required the participation of its various carriers around the world, and proudly showed a slide of the 20-plus companies that would offer it at launch. AT&T's logo was conspicuously absent, sending up a round of jeers and booing from the developer sections of the crowd. (The press corps doesn't get too worked up over anything, good or bad; that's why I like to sit back by the True Believers.)

> *"I still can't send an MMS and have no idea when I'll be able to. Tethering is another 'wait and see'…"*

If that wasn't bad enough, earlier in the keynote when Scott Forstall was discussing MMS, he mentioned that it too required carrier support, which it would get from 29 carriers in 76 countries, but not AT&T, and not in America. We'll get it "later this summer." Watch the video and you can see his disappointment. You'll hear some laughing from the crowd, but all I heard was boos.

And I can't really blame the disgruntled. As I write this two weeks after the keynote, iPhone 3.0 is here, the iPhone 3GS is selling well, and I still can't send an MMS and have no idea when I'll be able to. Tethering is another "wait and see," and who knows what AT&T will charge to discourage users from overloading its network. Time to bust out my favourite iPhone app, *Tiny Violin*, and play a sad song for the ways in which our (well-paid) phone companies fail us. ●

Susie Ochs is the Senior Editor of *Mac|Life* in San Francisco. She loves three things: everybody, television, and the exit row.

>>iTUNES NEWS

Rogue DJs invade

Metropolitan Police net new music criminals

Ten people have been arrested for attempting a credit card scam to defraud Apple and Amazon.

Starting in August the gang signed up with digital music aggregator Tunecore to release 19 compilations of their own music through the online music services. In a foolhardy move they then purchased these compilations approximately 65,000 times using a series of 1,500 stolen/cloned credit cards and fake accounts. They defrauded more than £200,000 in royalties from the music services.

Apple was warned of the scam by credit card firms earlier this year, and a joint operation between the Metropolitan Police and the FBI began. The gang was eventually busted on suspicion of conspiracy to commit fraud and money laundering in a series of raids, which were carried out in London, Kent, Wolverhampton and Birmingham.

"This has been a complex investigation to establish what we believe to be an international conspiracy to defraud Apple and Amazon," Detective Chief Inspector Terry Wilson, of the Met's Police Central eCrime Unit told the BBC.

It is thought that one gang member is the DJ responsible for making the songs that were sold online. Talent scouts are aware of the group and allegedly became interested in the act on strength of what they perceived as strong sales, a factor that also invalidated the charts while the scam took place. ●

The gang racked up impressive sales on iTunes.

>>APPLE IN NUMBERS

70 million

Number of *Safari* users worldwide, Apple claims.

Stockwatch

A look at the world of Apple business with Clem Chambers

It is said that 'the market knows' and that all knowable information is crucial at any time in the price of a stock. This theory might have been a good indicator for Steve Jobs's recent reappearance at Apple. As one of the most valuable CEOs in the US, Apple and its investors must be extremely overjoyed to see him back.

The stock price is now at a technical level where it is in a high area in a large downward trend. This suggests it will have a hard time going up further than $150. If it breaks out it will go up to all-time highs. However, the chances are the rise will halt and it could head back down towards $100.

As technology stocks will potentially rally hard shortly there is a chance Apple will go for the $200 and then if it goes further a new era might await.

This is a big ask, but then the history of Apple is a series of such events. Apple will have an eventful next few months.

Clem Chambers is CEO of ADVEN, Europe's leading stocks and shares website.

>> SAFARI NEWS

Speedy Safari shines brighter

11 million browser downloads in just three days

After being introduced at WWDC 2009, *Safari 4* is available now. Apple served more than 11 million *Safari* downloads within three days, with six million to Windows users.

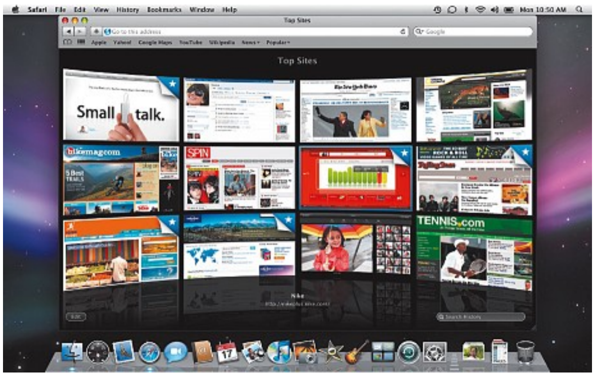
Matching the evolution of software as service solutions, such as MobileMe, *Safari* offers HTML5 support – a new standard designed to fill the gap *Silverlight* and *Flash* aim at. Underlining Apple's focus on open standards, *Safari 4* achieved a perfect score in the Web Standards Project's Acid3 standards test – resolutely exceeding current iterations of competing browsers.

Available in public beta since February, the browser includes a few new features, but its biggest advantage is speed. It includes the new Nitro JavaScript engine, which runs *JavaScript* more than four times faster than *Firefox 3*. *Safari* also loads HTML web pages faster than other browsers using the open-source *Web Kit* browser engine.

New features include the capacity to zoom in on pages using keyboard shortcuts or a toolbar button. The software also engages in "speculative loading" of pages you can choose to visit before you invoke them. **Searchable History** and improved address auto-completion also debut.

Visual navigation support includes **Cover Flow**, which displays bookmarks and history as graphical previews, while **Top Sites** generates a user-configurable window detailing the sites you visit most regularly.

When Snow Leopard ships later in the year, *Safari* will run as a 64-bit application, which Apple promises will make the browser 50% faster. Snow Leopard also runs plug-ins in a separate process, so even if one crashes, *Safari* will continue to run. ●



Cover Flow will display your visited sites as a handy graphical preview.

>> APPLE EVENTS / What's going on?

GAMES CONVENTION ONLINE, Leipzig
31 July - 2 August
Focused on online gaming. Will iPhone's ascendancy see developers reveal new socially connected titles this year?

MACFORMAT Issue 212
19 August
Look out for the next issue of the UK's most popular Mac mag, with the latest products and info on all things Apple.

IBC, Amsterdam
11-15 September
Europe's biggest event for professionals in video, broadcasting, TV and electronic content creation.

CREATIVE ALLIANCE TOUR
Autumn
Pro-photographers can join autumn dates in Manchester and London, presented by Adobe, Apple, HP and others.

THE MUSIC SHOW, Dublin
3-4 October
Ireland's leading music and technology event offers key industry speakers and the latest technological innovations.

TOTAL PRINT! EXPO, London
20-22 October
The popular international exhibition that is dedicated to professionals in the print and reprographic industries.

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MANGA STUDIO DEBUT 4
THE STANDARD IN MANGA & COMIC ILLUSTRATION
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Smith Micro's *Manga Studio* is the software of choice for comic book creators. With an excellent beginners' assistant, 160 pre-designed templates, over 2,300 screen tones and a comprehensive set of design tools, it has everything the aspiring comic book artist could need. For those who have gone beyond the aspiring artist stage and need professional tools, there's *Manga Studio EX 4*. And if it's animated cartoons you're interested in, there's *Anime Studio Debut 6*.

To celebrate the release of these programs, Smith Micro has put together an incredible prize bundle. One lucky winner will bag a brand-new Mac mini, boasting a 2.0GHz processor, 1GB of RAM and a 120GB hard drive, as well as a copy of the pro-level *Manga Studio EX 4*, which retails at £225. Our second prize winner gets *Manga Studio EX 4* and third prize is a *Manga Studio Debut 4* and *Anime Studio Debut 6* bundle, worth £78. Plus ten runners-up get a copy of *Manga Studio Debut 4* each.

For more information on all these products, go to **www.smithmicro.com**.

The question

To stand a chance of winning one of these fantastic prizes, answer this simple question:

How many screen tones are available in Manga Studio Debut 4?

A) 23
B) Almost 230
C) Over 2,300

» HOW TO ENTER

- To enter, text MANGA, followed by a space then your answer (A, B or C), space, then your name and address to 87474; or enter via our website at **www.macformat.co.uk** and click on the **Competition** link.
- By sending your entry, you agree to these competition rules and you confirm you are happy to receive details of future offers and promotions from Future Publishing Limited and carefully selected third parties.
- If you do not want to receive information relating to future offers and promotions, please include the words NO INFO at the end of your text message.
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- Competition closes on 18 August 2009.

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A time warp CW design from 1996...

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Me&MyMac

MacFormat readers share their beloved Mac setups

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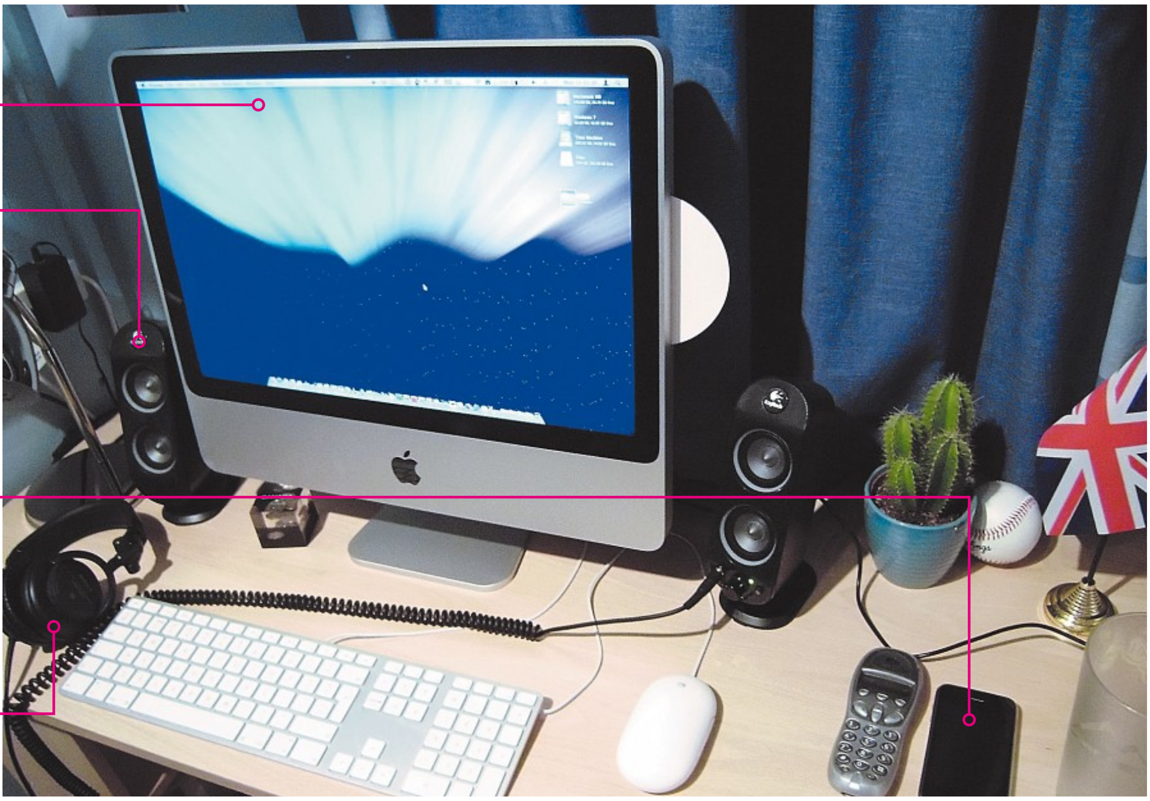
Want to share your Mac setup with us? Send a photo of your kit to **christopher.phin@futurenet.com**



Apple iMac 20-inch
This meaty 2.4GHz model is stuffed with 4GB of RAM; enough for all but the most demanding tasks.

Logitech X-530
This 5.1 surround sound system should be capable of thumping out some rich, loud music and effects.

Apple iPhone 3G
Lewis opted for the white iPhone 3G, which stores 16GB of data. No word on if he's upgrading to 3GS!

Sony MDR-V500DJ
Online reviews of these 'pro-level' headphones are mixed, but at £40, they hardly break the bank.

>> PROFILE

Name: Lewis Beechey
Occupation: Student
Been using a Mac for: Nine months
Favourite hardware: Western Digital MyBook Studio Edition
Favourite software: Safari, Mail and TweetDeck

Student Lewis Beechey started using Macs properly when he joined college to study Music Technology. "As everyone knows, Macs are the preferred platform for music artists, producers and engineers alike," he says. The course didn't go so well for Lewis and he dropped out, but his love for the platform stayed with him. "I use Apple these days because I know I'm buying and using a quality piece of kit. I know it's durable, elegant and efficient. And they look better than the competitors' products on the market.

"I run several online businesses and using a Mac makes managing that so much more efficient. The web apps, graphics designing apps and the elegant seamless work environment are a webmaster's dream. It's quick, has everything I need, and everything seems to flow so smoothly."

> *"I think Apple has got it down to a fine art. Integrating OS X into a mobile device cannot fail"*

While Lewis is a big fan of Macs, he's recently been blown away by the iPhone. "Since its release I've never been so amazed by a product in my life.

I think Apple has got it down to a fine art. Integrating OS X into a mobile device just cannot fail. Using the iPhone just seems so OS X-like – seamless, smooth and efficient.

"You can literally do anything from this device, which is what amazes me so much! If I want to Tweet about what I've just had for my lunch, there is an app out there that will let me do that, free or paid. If I want to book a taxi, I can do that just from a simple application in the App Store."

It should come as no surprise then, that Lewis's new plans also include the iPhone. "My Mac has encouraged me to become an iPhone developer, and with all the time I currently have on my hands until I start college again, I feel that my Mac and I can really get down to business and put some great applications out there! Now all I need to do is get myself a book on iPhone app development!"

We've said it before, and we'll say it again: one of the very best things about the world of the Mac and iPhone is its community of developers creating slick, beautiful and useful apps, and that the bar to entry is so low – $99 (£60) for the iPhone – it means that anyone can contribute something cool. Best of luck, Lewis! ●

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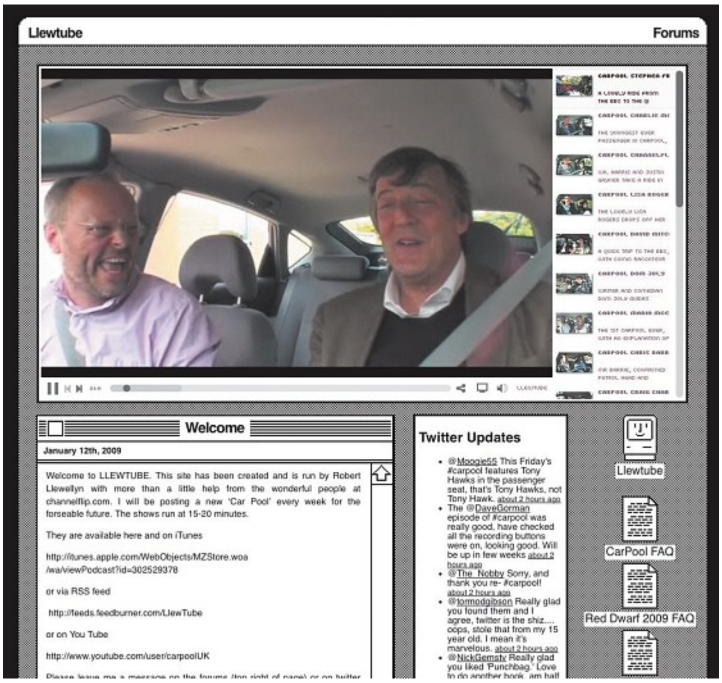


Welcome

January 12th, 2009

Welcome to LLEWTUBE. This site has been created and is run by Robert Llewellyn with more than a little help from the wonderful people at channelflip.com. I will be posting a new 'Car Pool' every week for the forseable future. The shows run at 15-20 minutes.

They are available here and on iTunes

http://itunes.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewPodcast?id=302529378

or via RSS feed

http://feeds.feedburner.com/LlewTube

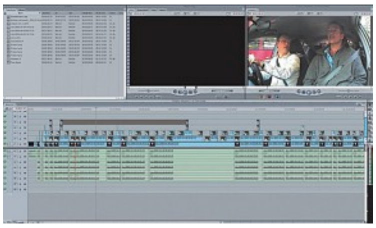
or on You Tube

http://www.youtube.com/user/carpoolUK

Please leave me a message on the forums (top right of page) or on twitter

Twitter Updates

- @Moogie55 This Friday's #carpool features Tony Hawks in the passenger seat, that's Tony Hawks, not Tony Hawk. about 2 hours ago
- The @DaveGorman episode of #carpool was really good, have checked all the recording buttons were on, looking good. Will be up in few weeks about 2 hours ago
- @The_Nobby Sorry, and thank you re- #carpool! about 2 hours ago
- @tomodgibson Really glad you found them and I agree, twitter is the shiz.... oops, stole that from my 15 year old. I mean it's marvelous. about 2 hours ago
- @NickGemsty Really glad you liked 'Punchbag.' Love to do another book, am half



ABOVE LEFT: Robert favours Apple's Final Cut Pro for editing: "It's just been really reliable for me and it does do what it says on the box… On the very large and quite expensive box!"

ABOVE: While working on CarPool in the US during May 2009, a Mac laptop was the centrepiece of Robert's 'on board edit suite'.

LEFT: Robert's CarPool series can be seen at **www.llewtube.com** or downloaded from iTunes (**http://is.gd/HfEx**), for the very reasonable price of nothing at all.

I use my Mac for web TV shows

Craig Grannell talks to writer, actor and TV presenter Robert Llewellyn

Jackie DiStephano

PROFILE

Name: Robert Llewellyn
Location: The North Cotswolds
Occupation: Web liberal and amateur nerd
System(s): 24-inch iMac, MacBook Pro
Web: www.llewtube.com

MacFormat: What sparked your interest in online video?

Robert Llewellyn: During the 1990s I first saw movie trailer downloads – it took a week on dial-up – and went "oh, video works on a computer". Then, in 1999, I visited a conference in LA, which was the first wave of 'TV will be online in the future'. It was full of old men with long beards wanting to release conspiracy theory footage, but Apple had a big presence. But for online video, you still had to pay for people to watch your shows, which as a business model has one or two holes [laughs]! YouTube completely transformed this.

MF: How does your Mac help you when you're creating and editing your video footage?

RL: It's extremely useful that you plug in a camera and the Mac sees it and recognises the files. I wouldn't have done what I'm doing now without my Mac. It's good for someone like me who's interested in the content rather than the process, in that it looks after most of the process.

MF: What software do you use for this process?

RL: I actually use *iMovie* to import video – it's the most reliable way. I've sort of felt guilty about that, because I thought clever, professional people would know a special way of doing this, but everyone I ask says, "Just use *iMovie*!" [laughs]. For editing, I use *Final Cut Pro*. It's the one piece of software I can work with at speed. I know all the keystrokes and can zip around it very quickly.

MF: What are you working on at the moment?

RL: *CarPool*, an online series where I give a hopefully interesting person a lift in my car and we talk. I've shot 38 episodes so far and released 20 or so. The idea for *CarPool* came about when, in 1998, David Baddiel gave me a lift and I shoved a video camera in the corner of his car and recorded the drive. The result was very funny, because we forgot the camera was there. It struck me that I wasn't interviewing him – it was just a conversation. I tried again with some other mates and it seemed to work. So the show is now as if you're sat in the back of the car while that bloke who used to have a rubber head is driving around with Stephen Fry, and you're listening in on the conversation. ●

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Here's what Apple is up against

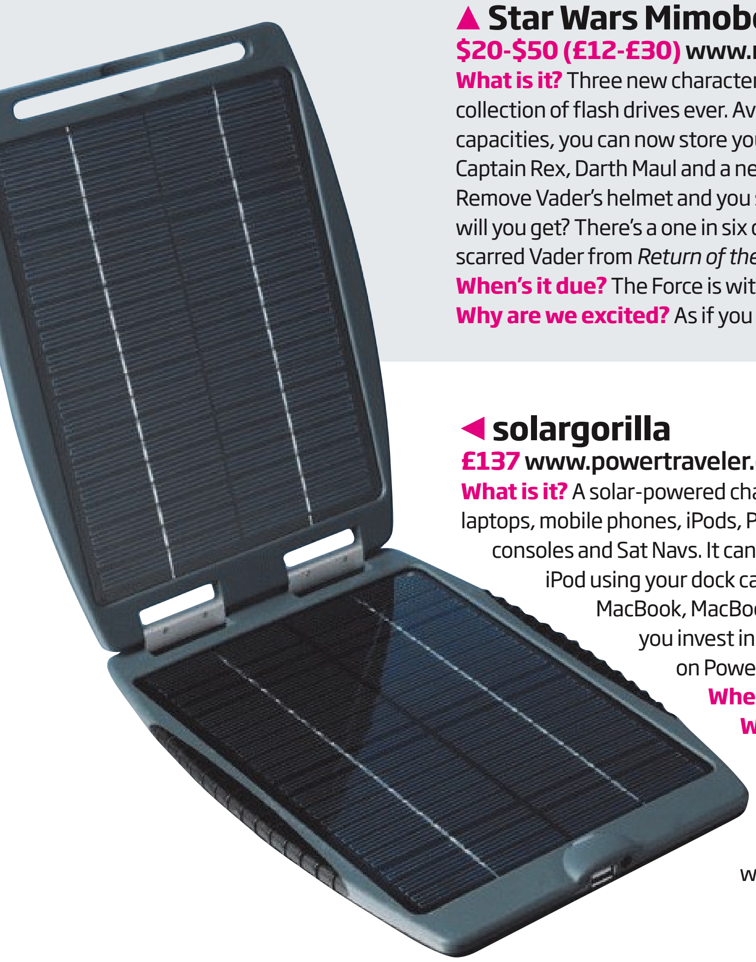
▲ Star Wars Mimobot Series 4

$20-$50 (£12-£30) **www.mimoco.com**

What is it? Three new characters join the coolest collection of flash drives ever. Available in 1GB to 8GB capacities, you can now store your digital data on Clone Captain Rex, Darth Maul and a new version of Darth Vader. Remove Vader's helmet and you see his face – but which will you get? There's a one in six chance it will be the pale, scarred Vader from *Return of the Jedi*.

When's it due? The Force is with us now.

Why are we excited? As if you need to ask…



◀ solargorilla

£137 **www.powertraveler.com**

What is it? A solar-powered charger that works on most laptops, mobile phones, iPods, PDAs, handheld games consoles and Sat Navs. It can charge your iPhone or iPod using your dock cable. It also works on a MacBook, MacBook Air or MacBook Pro if you invest in some adaptors available on Powertraveller's site.

When's it due? It's already out.

Why are we excited? It's ideal for backpacking through the tropics or camping in Australia, but might not work so well in a UK winter.

music
videos
pictures
radio
marketplace
social
more
zune

▲ Zune HD

£TBA **www.zune.com**

What is it? It's Microsoft's latest release in its less-than-successful Zune range of digital media players. It boasts a touchscreen, high-definition video, wireless connectivity, web access and Xbox integration.

When's it due? Autumn 2009.

Why are we excited? While we might not necessarily part with our cash, we have to admit it looks great. And anything that keeps Apple on its toes is a good thing. Let's hope it inspires continuing innovation for the iPod.

▶ Sony XEL-1 OLED TV

From £1,500 www.sony.co.uk

What is it? It's one of the first OLED (organic light emitting diode) televisions to hit the European market.

When's it due? Out now.

Why are we excited? OLED gives an incredible degree of contrast. Because the screen emits its own radiance and doesn't depend on an external light source, when a pixel's black, it's truly black. This TV captures natural light and shadows, and near-perfect picture fidelity.

◀ Zeemote JS1

£TBA www.zeemote.com/uk

What is it? A game controller for a wide range of mobile phones, and although the iPhone isn't officially supported, a YouTube video at **www.tinyurl.com/ncu8hg** shows it working with an unofficial hack.

When's it due? Now with contract bundles. Coming soon as a standalone product.

Why are we excited? It's a convenient way of playing your mobile phone games.

▶ Olympus Pen E-P1 Micro Four Thirds

£700 www.olympus.co.uk

What is it? An innovative digital camera combining the versatility of a DSLR with the convenience of a compact. It offers a 12.3MP sensor, HD video and a TruePic V image processor.

When's it due? Barring last-minute delays, it should be available by the time you read this.

Why are we excited? We love the design, and it's about time there was a quality DSLR that was easy to carry around. ●

OLYMPUS
M.ZUIKO DIGITAL 17mm 1:2.8
OLYMPUS
ϕ37

Feedback

Let us know what you think about your Mac, MacFormat and everything Apple

>> TWEETS THIS MONTH

We asked: What's the first thing you'll do after installing iPhone OS 3.0?

Craig_Tulloch@MacFormat
Realise it is just a phone after all and go on about it with a sense of disappointment for the rest of the evening!

curraghman@MacFormat
Go cut-copy-paste-doodle-tastic great mate.

markbrooke89@MFormat
Probably re-jailbreak my iPhone so I can get my Nintendo emulators back!

Is Apple finally out of ideas?

After WWDC this year everyone was hyped with the new upgrades to the iPhone, as well as the new upgrades to the Mac range. After a few days though I sat back and it occurred to me that Apple doesn't make anything new any more – it just upgrades. It seems as if Apple is running out of great ideas. The new iPhone 3GS has no new features, just upgrades to the standard iPhone 3G such as the better processor, RAM, better camera, etc. The same goes with Snow Leopard and the new Macs as well – instead of releasing new machines Apple seems to simply be updating. For example, the aluminium MacBook being turned into a MacBook Pro and the added battery life to the MacBook Pros. Whether this upgrading is due to Steve Jobs's absence and Apple wants to release new products when he's back, or maybe it is making something that's really going to blow us away I don't know, but at this moment in time it's looking to me like Apple's fresh ideas have gone stale.

Dan Haycocks

3G
9:42 AM
315° NW
37°19'55"N, 122°1'46"W

Nothing new? Video recording and the compass app spring to mind…

>> STAR LETTER / iPhone millionaires

Just thought I'd drop you a line to say thanks! Not only is the magazine a great read, but your article on iPhone millionaires (May 2009) was really inspiring.

I use my MacBook Pro for work and had taken a look at *Xcode* before, but that was as far as I got. I'd had some previous coding experience, but having read your article I gave it another go.

I invested in a couple of really good study books for new iPhone coders: (*Beginning iPhone Development: Exploring the iPhone SDK* by Dave Mark and Jeff LaMarche, and *Learn Objective-C on the Mac* by M. Naster and S. Dalrymple), with the former proving particularly useful. Now, four weeks on, I have an application published on the App Store (the *iBet Betting Calculator*). Hurrah!

Admittedly, it's a simple application, but it's intended to be that way. At this time, it ranks in the top 20 paid sports apps and is selling well. I don't really expect to be a millionaire any time soon, but this is just the start.

For any readers thinking of beginning iPhone application development, I'd advise a) buying the books b) using the net (a lot). There are some great development sites to look at: **www.stackoveflow.com**, **www.iphonedevsdk.com** and, of course, there's the Apple iPhone development site – **developer.apple.com/iphone**. Many of the questions you'll come up with have already been asked on these sites so it'll help you get to the answers quicker.

Paul Dignan

MacFormat replies: What a great email to receive, Paul! We're glad to be of service, and wish you luck with your next project. Readers can visit the App Store and search for *iBet Betting Calculator* to see what Paul created.

STAR LETTER

Email all your letters to us at **macformat@futurenet.com** If yours gets picked as the MacFormat Star Letter, you'll be sent a fantastic EyeTV Hybrid. It comes with analog and digital tuners, so you can use it to put TV on your Mac wherever you are in the country!

The new wired, compact Apple keyboard requires OS X Leopard to work.

MacFormat replies: There's nothing unusual here, Dan, Apple has a long history of announcing what we call 'speed bumps' – simple incremental updates to the existing product line that offer more bang for your buck. All PC companies do it, and thank goodness they do, or we'd all be moaning about how out of date the current product lines look! It would be asking a bit much of Apple, or any company for that matter, to keep coming up with products as ground-breaking and innovative as the iPhone or iMac, every single year, as much as we'd like them to.

Keyboard query

Having managed, at least, to glance through the latest issue (June) when it arrived, I was delighted to see that it would be possible to buy a compact keyboard, even though aluminium wouldn't match my iMac. I hate the extended keyboard; as a touch typist, I never use the numeric keypad.

However, nowhere in the review did Ian Osborne state that it was compatible only with Macs with OS X 10.5 and later. All set to purchase a keyboard, I checked the specifications and discovered it would, apparently, not be compatible with my G4 iMac running OS X 10.4.11. Perhaps you can verify this OS requirement and advise me if it will work?

Liz Ashley

>> CONTACT US
Whatever your Mac-related cares, concerns or calamities are, let us know about them by contacting us on the following email address:
macformat@futurenet.com

MacFormat replies: It does seem odd that the new compact keyboard is Leopard only. We got our review sample way before it was a standalone release by Apple (it came with an iMac we were reviewing) so we weren't aware of the Leopard-only restriction at that stage. It's a strange restriction, since it's just a keyboard, after all, but Apple has confirmed to us that the new wired, compact keyboard is a Leopard-only device.

Nutty Pages

Why oh why has Apple removed a feature from *AppleWorks* that was so useful and quick and not re-introduced it to *Pages*? Specifically keyboard shortcuts for spelling. In *AppleWorks* the spelling box had ctrl-click numbered spelling suggestions. It was so easy to do everything via a quick keyboard shortcut of ctrl+[number] to quickly select the correct word that had been misspelled. Now it has to be done via the mouse and it takes forever. It drives me nuts!

George Mosley

MacFormat replies: *Pages*, like all Apple apps these days, uses the built-in, system-wide OS X spellchecker. We can't think of an obvious solution to your problem, but there must be a workaround. Maybe one of our clever readers can come up with a solution? ●

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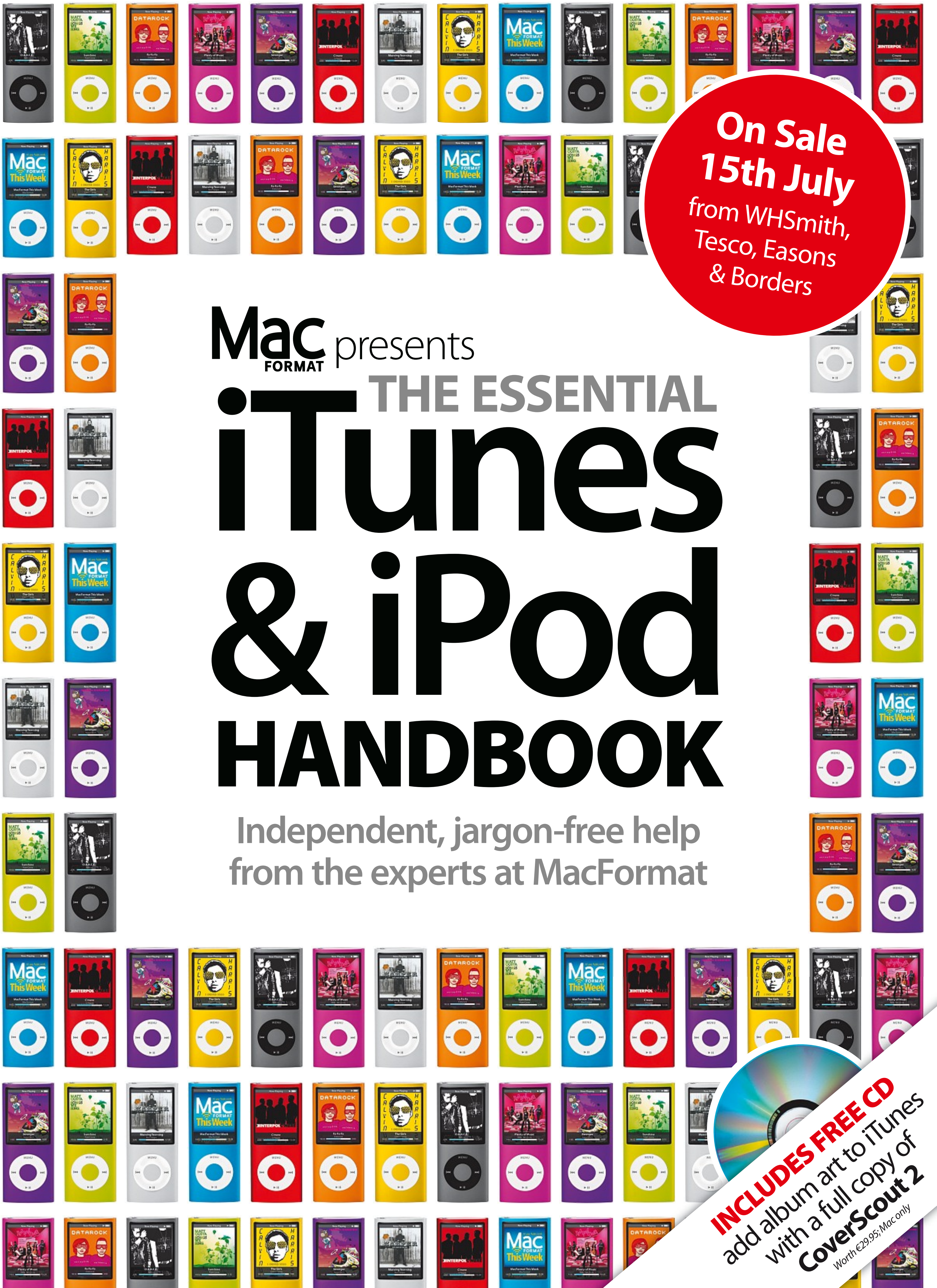

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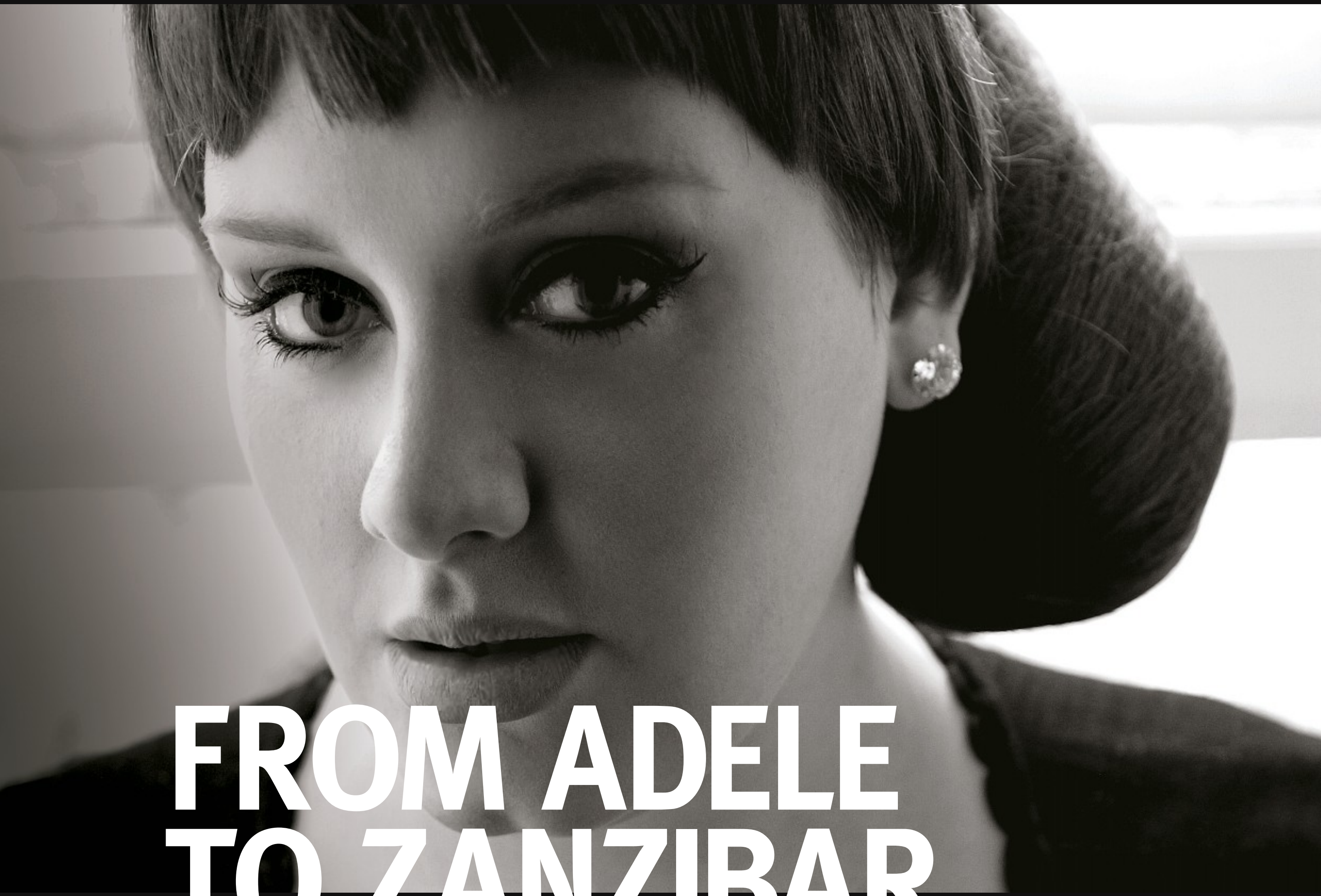

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MacFormat investigates

iPhone 3.0 software

There's lots to like in the 3.0 upgrade, but does it really make your 3G as good as a 3GS? **Gary Marshall** finds out

When iPhone 3G customers got angry about the upgrade prices for the iPhone 3GS, O2 was quick to respond: "Stop your moaning, you ungrateful shower!" the firm said. "You'll be getting the 3.0 firmware for free! What else do you want? A free horse?"

Those weren't O2's exact words, of course, but that's exactly what it meant. So is O2 right? Is upgrading to 3.0 enough to make us stop wanting an iPhone 3GS? The short answer is "hmmm". There's a lot to like, but as we'll discover there are a few irritations and omissions too.

As cynics have been quick to point out, the big news in 3.0 is the arrival of features that lesser phone firms have been offering for ages: multimedia messaging (MMS) and cutting and pasting. MMS is now part of the renamed *Messages* application, and it works perfectly well – although we found that it runs desperately slowly. Thankfully that's the only app that performs less well than before: in some cases, notably *Safari* and *Maps*, 3.0 is a lot faster.

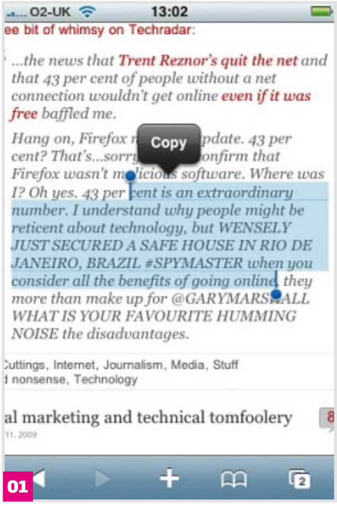
> "The big news in 3.0 is the arrival of multimedia messaging and copy and pasting"

The long-awaited cut, copy and paste functions are a classic case of better late than never. Apple's implementation is simple, stylish and useful, and it's nicer than the copy and paste on rival platforms. Holding your finger on an object enables you to drag a selection area for text, and you can then cut, copy or select all; switch to your destination app, hold your finger down again and the paste option springs up. It doesn't just work for text; you can also copy photos, so you can copy a picture from your camera roll and paste it into an email or MMS, and it can also copy URLs from *Safari*'s address bar.

Version 3.0 also brings the landscape keyboard to more applications. It was previously only available in *Safari*, but now it's also available in *Mail*, *Messages* and *Notes* – although Apple hasn't changed the hideous font in the latter – and the 3.0 APIs should see landscape keyboards appearing in third-party apps too. We're really not sure about the keyboard, though. In landscape mode the proportions feel wrong, with the keyboard feeling wider than it should be. As with the portrait version it's useless for fingers, but we found that it was too wide for thumb input. Our hands were hurting after a few quick SMS

RIGHT: **Improved JavaScript performance doesn't sound interesting until you see the results: faster Safari and a massive speed boost in Maps.**

O2-UK
10:07
Cafe
The Circus Cafe
Search
Directions
Google



ee bit of whimsy on Techradar:

…the news that Trent Reznor's quit the net and that 43 per cent of people without a net connection wouldn't get online even if it was free baffled me.

Hang on, Firefox r pdate. 43 per cent? That's…sorr onfirm that Firefox wasn't m licious software. Where was I? Oh yes. 43 per cent is an extraordinary number. I understand why people might be reticent about technology, but WENSELY JUST SECURED A SAFE HOUSE IN RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL #SPYMASTER when you consider all the benefits of going online they more than make up for @GARYMARSHALL WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE HUMMING NOISE the disadvantages.

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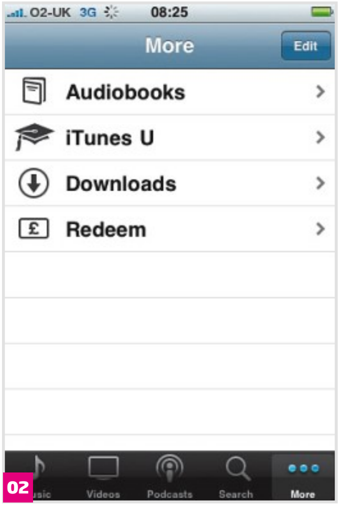
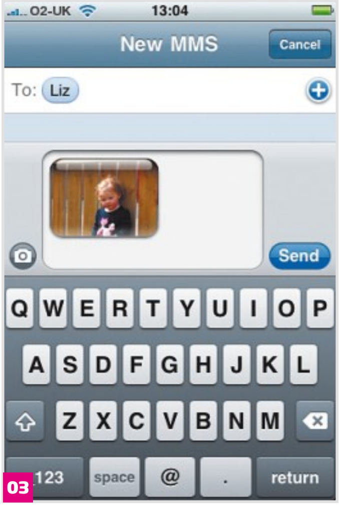
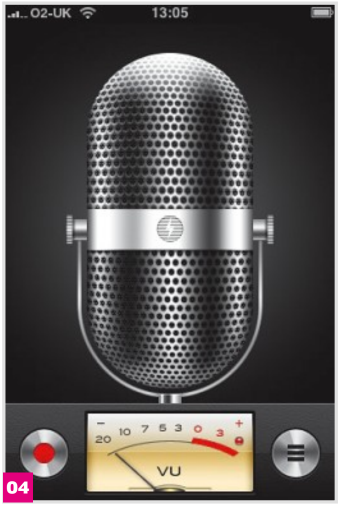
11, 2009







[01] Copying and pasting is flawless, and it's nicer than the approach taken by other phone operating systems.

[02] iTunes is more phone-friendly, enabling you to download more kinds of content and redeem gift cards without using your Mac.

[03] MMS works just like SMS, although you'll notice the little camera icon. This enables you to take a shot as you compose your message.

[04] The Voice Memos application enables you to record voice memos. There's no voice control unless you have a 3GS, however.

messages, and we suspect that a long email might result in permanent disability. That said, everybody's hands are different so you may well find the landscape keyboard comfortable.

The arrival of Spotlight is more successful. A quick swipe of the Home screen brings up the familiar search box, and Spotlight looks at everything in your iPhone – so, for example, if you search for a person Spotlight will return their *Address Book* entry, relevant *Calendar* appointments and any emails you've sent to or received from them. Unlike Spotlight on the desktop, however, it can't search the contents of email messages.

Net benefits

Apple has been busy underneath the iPhone's hood, and the result is massively improved *JavaScript* performance. In the real world that means faster *Maps* and improved *Safari* speeds, and the browser has also been beefed up with anti-phishing protection to warn you of potentially dangerous or fraudulent sites. *Safari* also gets Autofill, so it remembers passwords and can automatically populate online forms with data from *Address Book*.

> *"iTunes now lets you download movies, audiobooks and iTunes U content to your iPhone"*

If your kids have an iPhone, you'll like the parental controls (in Settings > General > Restrictions). You can stop them from using *Safari*, YouTube or *iTunes*, prevent them from installing apps, disclosing their location or buying upgrades from within applications, and you can filter movies, music and apps to keep things family-friendly. With music, that's as simple as deciding whether or not to filter *iTunes*' explicit tag, but with movies and apps you can specify age ratings.

3.0 also introduces tethering, which enables you to connect your iPhone via USB and use it as a laptop modem. Unfortunately O2 has taken the same approach to iPhones as it does with other smartphone customers: unlimited data only means unlimited when you're browsing from your iPhone, not using it as a modem. Using it as a modem means an extra £15 per month on top of your existing plan.

Collaboration has been improved – *Calendar* now supports the CalDAV standard and Exchange ActiveSync – and if you've got MobileMe, you can take advantage of Find My Phone to, well, find your phone. If your iPhone is stolen, you can remotely zap the data while you call the police.

More goodies

So what else do you get? *iTunes* now enables you to download audiobooks, movies and iTunes U content directly to your phone and enables you to redeem gift cards without rushing home to your computer; stereo Bluetooth support means you can get groovier headphones; YouTube lets you log in to your account; and the new *Voice Memos* application enables you to record voice memos. You don't get the voice control features of the iPhone 3GS, however: Apple says the

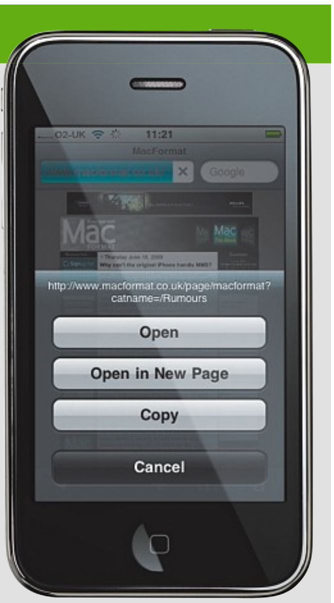
» iPHONE 3.0 TOP TIPS

In addition to the main features, *3.0* introduces some other handy bits and pieces. In *Messages* and *Mail*, holding down some of the symbol keys brings up a menu of additional characters. For example, holding down the full stop gives you a choice of "." and "…" while the dash gives you the choice of hyphen or em dash ("-" or "–"). In *Messages* you can delete individual messages without having to zap the entire conversation.

In *Safari*, holding your finger or thumb on a link brings up a new menu: **Open**, **Open in New Page** or **Copy**. As you'd expect, the first option clicks the link, the second opens it in a new tab and the third copies the URL so you can paste it into an email.

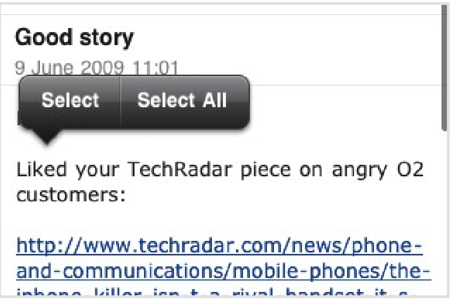
Also **Force Quit** has moved, because the **Home** button does more now. To kill an unresponsive application in 3.0 you have to press and hold the power button until the red slider appears, and then hold down the **Home** button for around ten seconds.

Finally, there's no limit to the number of apps you can install: if you fill up all 11 pages, you won't see any more apps; you can find and launch them from Spotlight.



Safari now works like a Desktop browser: press and hold a link to launch it in a new tab or copy the URL.

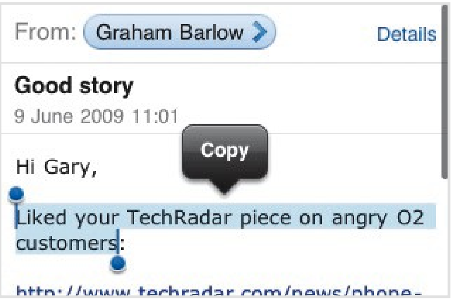
HOW TO / Selectively quote an email



Good story
9 June 2009 11:01

Liked your TechRadar piece on angry O2 customers:

http://www.techradar.com/news/phone-and-communications/mobile-phones/the-



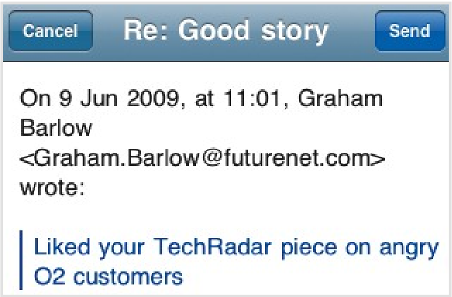
From: Graham Barlow

Good story
9 June 2009 11:01

Hi Gary,

Liked your TechRadar piece on angry O2 customers:

http://www.techradar.com/news/phone-



Re: Good story

On 9 Jun 2009, at 11:01, Graham Barlow <Graham.Barlow@futurenet.com> wrote:

Liked your TechRadar piece on angry O2 customers

01 Adding a quote

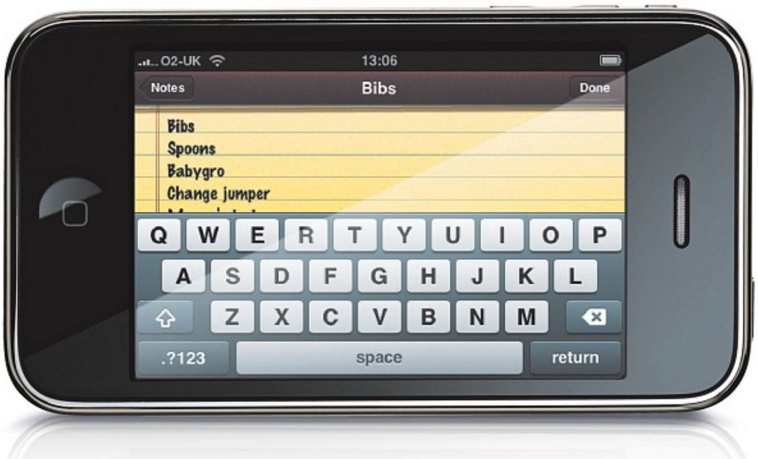
One of our favourite things in OS X *Mail* is the way you can selectively quote emails when you reply, and with iPhone OS 3.0 you can do the same on your phone. In the message you're replying to, hold down your finger until the **Select** or **Select All** options appear.

02 Selecting the text

Choose **Select** and drag the pointers until the area of text you want to quote is highlighted. Once you've done that, it's just a matter of selecting **Copy** to store the text in the iPhone's clipboard. Now, click on the **Reply** icon.

03 The quoted text

The application puts the quoted text in a weird place – it appears beneath your email signature, if you have one set up. But as you can see from the image above, your iPhone automatically pastes and indents the text you selected in the original email so it stands out. ●



The landscape keyboard comes to the Mail, Messages and Notes apps, but we're not sure about it. It feels too wide and gave us sore hands.

3GS has digital signal processing technology that the 3G doesn't.

Last and probably least, you can shake your iPhone to undo the most recent action or to change the currently playing song. It's a gimmick rather than a feature, as hitting delete a few times is faster and more reliable.

We suspect the most interesting things about 3.0 won't appear until third-party developers start exploring them. Bluetooth support should enable local multiplayer games, push notification will make it easier for applications to let you know important information, device support may herald a new wave of intelligent accessories, and in-app purchasing will enable game developers and media firms to offer extra content such as downloadable game levels or premium subscriptions. Who knows, we might even see third-party keyboards.

What you don't get

We've already mentioned the absence of voice control, but that's not the only difference between a 3.0 3G and the new iPhone 3GS. You don't get autofocus on the camera – the hardware doesn't support it – and there's no *Compass* app because the 3G doesn't have a compass. You can't shoot or edit video either, so your MMS messages are limited to photos, and of course you don't get the speed boost from the 3GS's faster processor or the battery life improvements.

So is 3.0 good enough to convince you not to buy a 3GS? Until third-party developers really start to take advantage of the new APIs it's evolution rather than revolution, but it does keep your phone current without forcing you to shell out any more cash. More to the point, upgrading to a 3GS right now means you're locking yourself into an 18- or 24-month contract when it's clear that Apple intends to unveil a new iPhone every year. An iPhone 3G running 3.0 isn't quite as good as the iPhone 3GS, but it's good enough. And this time next year, you'll be able to upgrade to the next iPhone without having to buy yourself out of your contract.

> *"An iPhone 3G running 3.0 isn't quite as good as the iPhone 3GS, but it's good enough"*

But what about iPod touch owners? While iPhone owners get a free upgrade to 3.0, an obscure law called Surbanes Oxly means Apple has to charge for any upgrade to a product with "iPod" in its name. For iPod touch owners that means that it costs £5.99 to upgrade to 3.0. Is it worth it? We think so. Of course, you don't get the phone features, but you do get the improvements to *iTunes*, cut, copy and paste, better YouTube, faster *Safari*, Spotlight, support for third-party accessories, parental controls and push notification. If your iPod is a second-generation model, you'll also get **Stereo Bluetooth** and support for peer-to-peer gaming. That's a lot of goodies for less than six quid. ●

REVIEW OF iPHONE 3GS
Find out what we think of the new iPhone 3GS in our review on page 83.

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Canon
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Photo 6 of 54

iLife '09 is an amazing suite. **Hollin Jones** shows you how to get more out of it with our guide to its top hidden tools and tricks…

Part of the appeal of Apple's *iLife* suite of creative applications is its simplicity and elegance. Considering they are free with a new Mac or inexpensive to buy on DVD, these multimedia tools are more than a match for many higher priced commercial alternatives.

The really clever part, and something which Apple is particularly adept at, is incorporating lots of tools and features into software while keeping the interface simple and the learning curve as gentle as possible. So although you might be familiar with the basics of *iMovie, iPhoto, iWeb* and *GarageBand*, there are many tips and techniques that you may not be aware of and that can make your workflow quicker and your finished product more professional. These range from tool modifier keys to access alternate functions, to seemingly hidden or obscure buttons, menus or commands that could be just what you've been wishing for.

Discovering all of these little tricks and hidden features by yourself can take some time, but here we've gathered them together for you. If you've been using *iLife* but feeling that there was something missing that would really complete your user experience, it may well be that it's there, you just haven't found it yet. Did you know for example that you can embed Google adverts in your *iWeb* pages, or that *GarageBand* lets you place clickable web links into a podcast? Read on to find out more and become an *iLife* expert… »

iLife is designed to make time spent at your Mac easier, quicker and more productive.

Photography: Dave Caudrey

Get more from iPhoto

There's a lot more to iPhoto than first meets the eye

Improve picture definition

Digital stills can sometimes be a little hazy, especially when you blow them up. The **Definition** slider improves clarity and reduces haziness in pictures but, crucially, without adding lots of contrast. It does this by adjusting the contrast in certain parts of the image rather than uniformly over the whole image, as the **Contrast** slider would do. Double-click on an image to open it in **Edit** view, then click the **Adjust** button. From the **Adjust** palette, move the **Definition** slider until you are satisfied with the results. You may be surprised by how hazy your original pictures were once you see them with definition applied.

Switch between effect settings

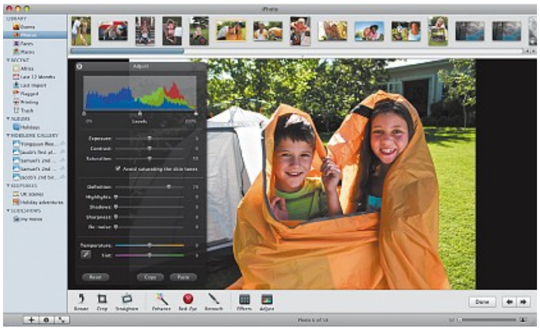
Being able to apply effects to images with the **Effects** palette is great, but they at first seem hard to control. If you click repeatedly on an effect – on the box above its name – you can step through different grades of effect and a little more will be applied with each click. For many of the effects you'll see a number representing the effect level and two arrows, letting you step back and forward through the levels. If you hold the ⌥ key whilst clicking, your clicks will move backwards rather than forwards, applying less effect until you get back to zero.

Tag your pictures with locations

iPhoto '09 lets you tag images with geographical locations. By clicking on a photo's **Info** button at its bottom right-hand corner, you open its location window. Here, you can

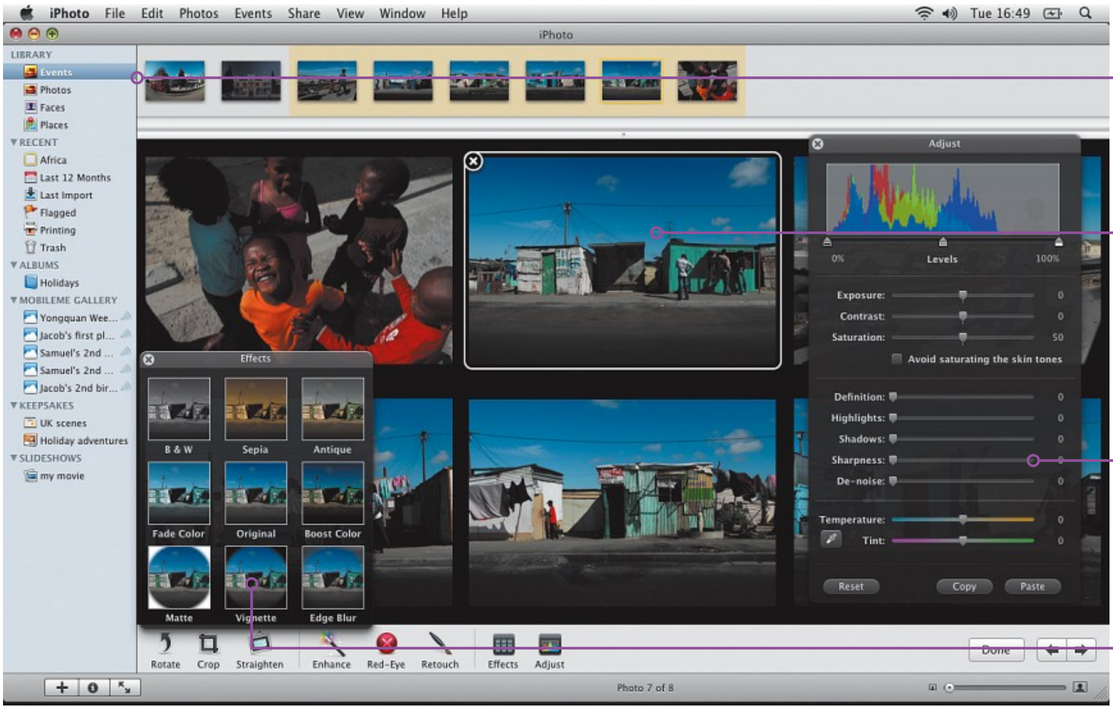
» QUICK TIP

Edits you make in *iPhoto* are non-destructive, meaning that it always keeps an original copy of the photo, untouched. As many edits as you make to an image, you can always hold down the ⇧ key to see a copy of the original. Switching between the two like this lets you see how much or how little difference you have made with your changes.



The Definition slider is useful for sharpening up and improving the clarity of images without causing unwanted side effects.

» QUICK LOOK / The best bits of iPhoto '09


iPhoto
File
Edit
Photos
Events
Share
View
Window
Help
Tue 16:49
LIBRARY
Events
Photos
Faces
Places
RECENT
Africa
Last 12 Months
Last Import
Flagged
Printing
Trash
ALBUMS
Holidays
MOBILEME GALLERY
Yongquan Wee...
Jacob's first pl...
Samuel's 2nd ...
Samuel's 2nd ...
Jacob's 2nd bir...
KEEPSAKES
UK scenes
Holiday adventures
SLIDESHOWS
my movie
Effects
B & W
Sepia
Antique
Fade Color
Original
Boost Color
Matte
Vignette
Edge Blur
Adjust
0%
Levels
100%
Exposure:
Contrast:
Saturation:
Avoid saturating the skin tones
Definition:
Highlights:
Shadows:
Sharpness:
De-noise:
Temperature:
Tint:
Reset
Copy
Paste
Rotate
Crop
Straighten
Enhance
Red-Eye
Retouch
Effects
Adjust
Done
Photo 7 of 8

Library sections
Choose which library or album to view here. You can also view your MobileMe galleries.

Compare images
Select multiple images and press **Edit** to view them side by side.

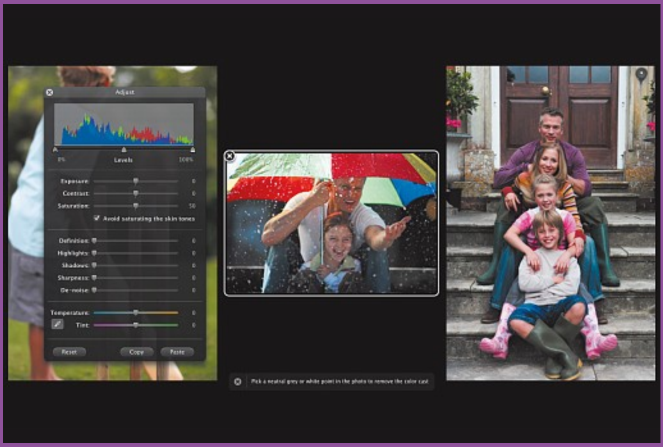
Adjust palette
Fix exposure problems, enhance images and improve definition.

Effects palette
Click again to apply more of the effect, or ⌥-click to reduce.

Edit multiple images side by side

When editing photos in *iPhoto*, viewing images side by side can help the process. If you have several images of one landscape that you wish to turn into a panorama, for example, this is great.

If you select multiple images by either ⇧-clicking or drawing around them with the cursor then click **Edit**, you will see the selected images side by side in **Edit** view. For each one you select with the mouse you can use the left, right, up and down arrows to select other images to fill that slot, all without leaving **Edit** view. This is a great way to work with and modify sets of photos without continually having to go back to the library. In this view, clicking the edit controls running along the bottom like **Effects**, **Adjust**, **Red Eye** or **Enhance** will affect only the selected image, which will remain alongside the others. This trick is perfect for matching up sets of pictures – for ensuring that they all have matching colour and contrast settings, for example. You can use the **Compare** button to preview two images together in a similar way, but at a larger size.


Adjust
Levels
Exposure:
Contrast:
Saturation:
Avoid saturating the skin tones
Definition:
Highlights:
Shadows:
Sharpness:
De-noise:
Temperature:
Tint:
Reset
Copy
Paste

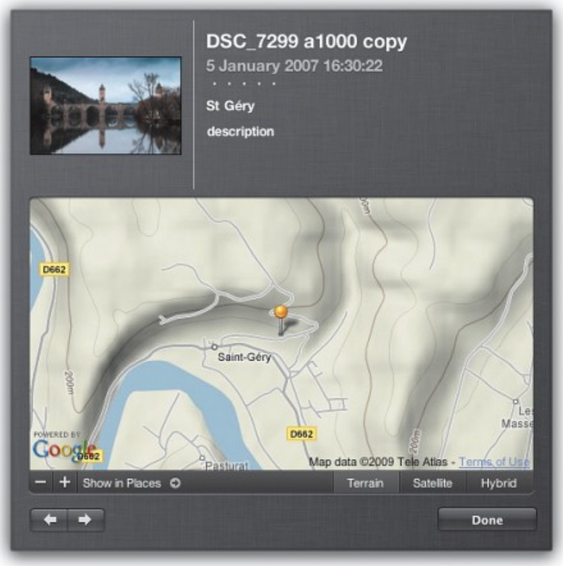
Pick a neutral grey or white point in the photo to remove the color cast

Viewing photos side by side and full screen helps you when editing.

enter a place name in the place field and select Find on map. This opens an integrated view of Google Maps and you can locate the place the picture was taken, dragging the blue circle around the location pin to widen the defined area. Then click Assign to tag the picture with that location. You can also select the Places library in the left-hand column of *iPhoto*'s window to view a list of all the locations you have tagged, then filter all tagged images based on where they were taken. It's a great way to quickly find all images taken in a specific place. If an Event containing lots of pictures needs tagging with a single location, repeat the above steps but using the Info button on an Event's key photo in the Event view, which will tag all images associated with the event.

Search with facial recognition

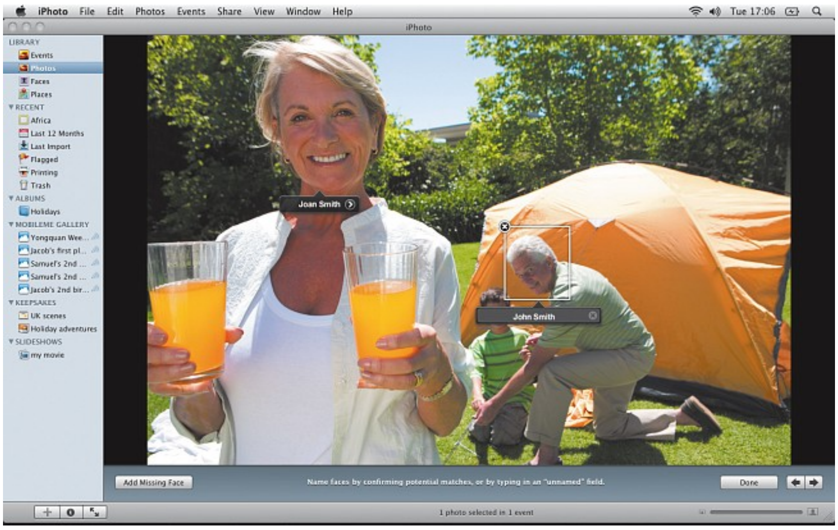
iPhoto '09 features facial recognition, offering a great way to search through an image library to quickly identify people. Find a picture containing a face, and add the name of that person by clicking the Name button. Then go to the Faces library and *iPhoto* will have located all other pictures which it thinks feature that person, based on its analysis of the images. Select all the images which actually do feature that person and click Confirm Name. Use the View button to toggle between whole image view and close-ups of the face. The more pictures you confirm, the better *iPhoto* will get at recognising that face in other and future images.



DSC_7299 a1000 copy
5 January 2007 16:30:22
St Géry
description

D662
Saint-Géry
POWERED BY Google
Map data ©2009 Tele Atlas - Terms of Use
Show in Places
Terrain
Satellite
Hybrid
Done

Add locations to images using the built-in Google Maps feature.


iPhoto File Edit Photos Events Share View Window Help
Tue 17:06
iPhoto
LIBRARY
Events
Photos
Faces
Places
RECENT
Africa
Last 12 Months
Last Import
Flagged
Printing
Trash
ALBUMS
Holidays
MOBILEME GALLERY
KEEPSAKES
UK scenes
Holiday adventures
SLIDESHOWS
my movie
Joan Smith
John Smith
Add Missing Face
Done
1 photo selected in 1 event

Name faces by confirming potential matches, or by typing in an "unnamed" field.

Tag and name faces and iPhoto will find other photos in your library containing those people.

Use intelligent colour adjustment

Digital cameras often get colour balance wrong for various reasons, and this can be altered with the Temperature and Tint sliders in *iPhoto*'s Adjust palette. If you click on the small colour dropper icon to the left of the Tint slider, you will be able to click on the image to select a particular colour to remove or tone down. So, for example, with a picture that's washed out and blue, use the tool to click on an area of the offending blue and *iPhoto* will remove it, giving a warmer effect. Alternatively where a picture has come out too saturated or warm, click on an area of particular warmth to 'cool' the image down. »

»QUICK TIP

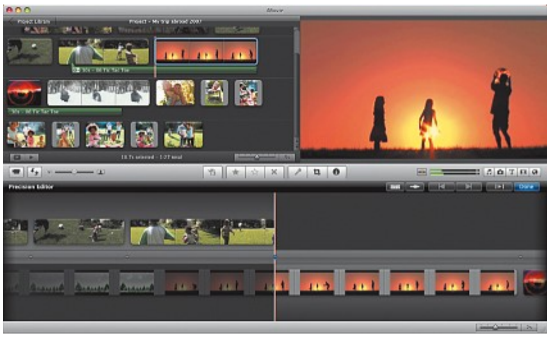
Images can be dragged and dropped straight out of *iPhoto*'s library to the Desktop or another hard drive, but this is also possible with entire Events. Click on an Event and drag it out of *iPhoto* to copy it all. Remember that the pictures will copy individually and not collectively so it can be a good idea to drop them into a folder rather than straight onto the Desktop as this results in them sitting in a pile or cluttering up the Desktop.

Expert movie tips

Become a great movie-maker with iMovie and iDVD

Make precision edits

Flowing one clip into another can seem a little clumsy in *iMovie*, unless you know about the **Precision Editor**. Double-click on the area between two clips or locate the tiny gear icon at the bottom-left corner of a clip, and choose **Precision Editor.** In the resulting view you can see the overlap between the two clips with the blue line representing the point at which they cross. Manually move either clip left or right to set precisely where the cut happens. Light areas mean a visible clip, shaded areas mean the clip is not visible. You can also drag the blue line to set the cut point. The **Precision Editor** also gives you precise control over audio tracks, titles, markers and other project elements.



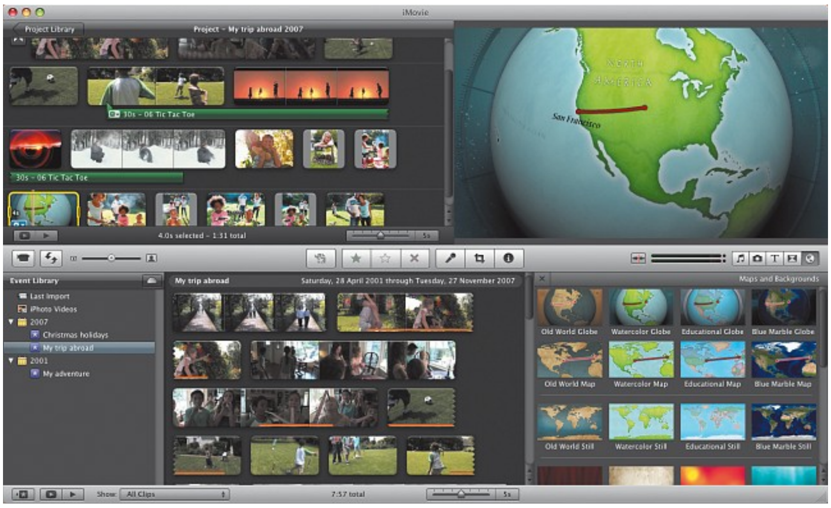
The Precision Editor can fine tune the point where clips intersect.

Focus in on a clip

It might be that you need to crop a video clip to focus attention on a certain part of the frame. In *iMovie* this is a very easy task – in fact it's as easy as cropping a still image in *iPhoto*. Click on the tiny gear icon on a clip when you're viewing it in either **Project** or **Event** view, and choose **Cropping and Rotation**. Now, draw around the part of the clip you wish to zoom in on and it's done instantly, with no rendering. You can move the crop area around as the video plays back to change it. This technique is handy for focusing in on people's faces during interviews, for example.

Toggle between transitions

When you have dropped a transition between two movie clips, you can double-click on the transition to edit it. In the box you can choose a new duration; if you wish this duration to be the default length for all transitions in the project, simply click the tick box. By clicking on the transition name you can open the **Chooser** window and select another type of transition. By moving the mouse from left to right over any transition you can see what its effects will be on your clips. Then you simply click on the transition to apply it.



iMovie contains ready-made animated globe clips you can add to a movie to trace your journey.

» QUICK TIP

Before an *iDVD* project can be burned to disc, all its assets need to be encoded to the correct format. With long files this can be slow; so go to the **Advanced** menu and turn on **Encode in Background** so there's less waiting time when burning. Go to Project > Project Info to see encoding quality settings and the progress of any that are underway.

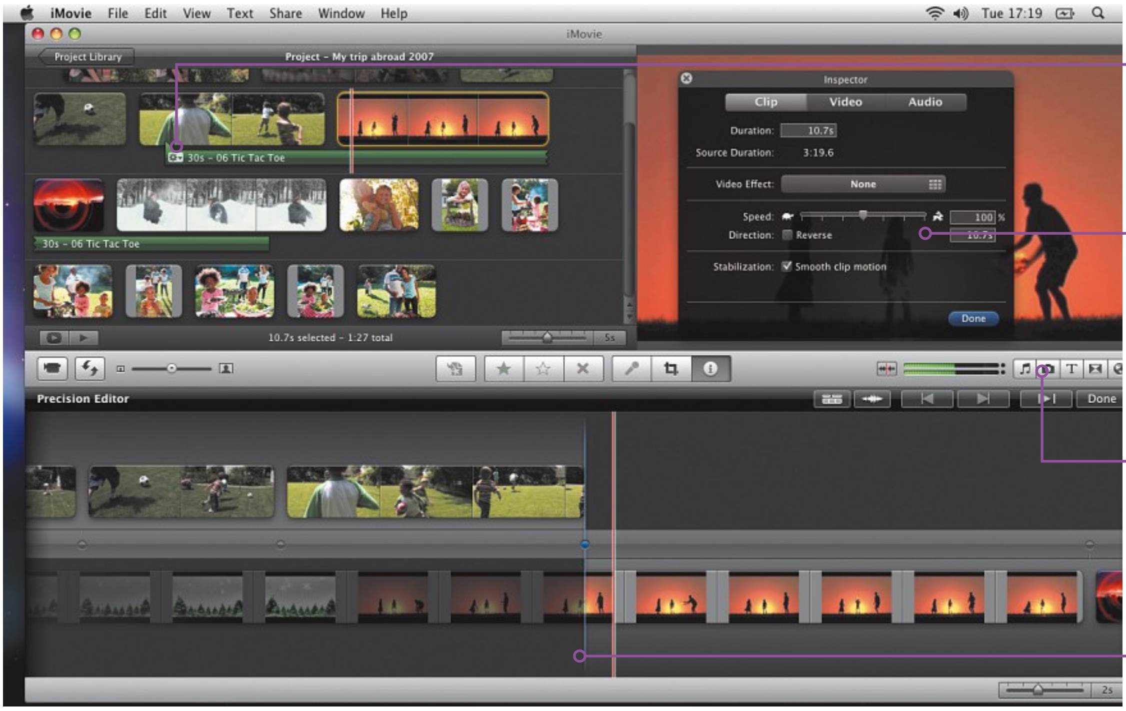
Add spinning globe graphics

Many home-made films tend to be about family trips or holidays, and *iMovie '09* features a tab called **Maps and Backgrounds**, which you can bring up by pressing ⌘+5. From here you can drop a series of different styled spinning globes into a project, setting their duration with the **Time** slider. Then double-click on them to choose a special effect; again, moving the mouse left and right enables you to preview the effect. Finally, enter start and end locations and *iMovie* will animate a line travelling between the two places, just like in an *Indiana Jones* movie. This is a great feature if you've travelled across the US or around Europe, for example, and it really is a nice extra touch for a home movie about your trip.

Stabilise shaky footage

Shaky handheld footage can be a problem when making movies, especially with small, modern camcorders. When footage has been imported, you can right-click on a clip and choose **Analyze for Stabilization**. *iMovie* will then scan the clip – for long clips this can take quite a while – and attempt to correct the shaking. You must drag the clip to the **Project** browser to see it with correction applied, as it won't display in the **Event** browser. You can also choose to analyse footage immediately after import. A clip will display with different symbols depending on how much stabilisation has been applied – a red line means it wasn't possible. *iMovie* will zoom in to a degree in order to correct the shaking. Double-click on a clip and deselect **smooth clip motion** to temporarily suspend the correction and play the clip in its original form. If you reactivate it you won't have to re-analyse the clip.

» QUICK LOOK / The best bits of iMovie '09


iMovie
File
Edit
View
Text
Share
Window
Help
Tue 17:19
Project Library
Project – My trip abroad 2007
30s – 06 Tic Tac Toe
10.7s selected – 1:27 total
Inspector
Clip
Video
Audio
Done
Precision Editor
Done

Duration: 10.7s
Source Duration: 3:19.6
Video Effect: None
Speed: 100 %
Direction: ☐ Reverse
Stabilization: ☑ Smooth clip motion

Add music tracks

Music you add displays as a green bar. Click on the gear icon to change its properties.

Video inspector

Add video effects, change the duration, speed and direction.

Media browser

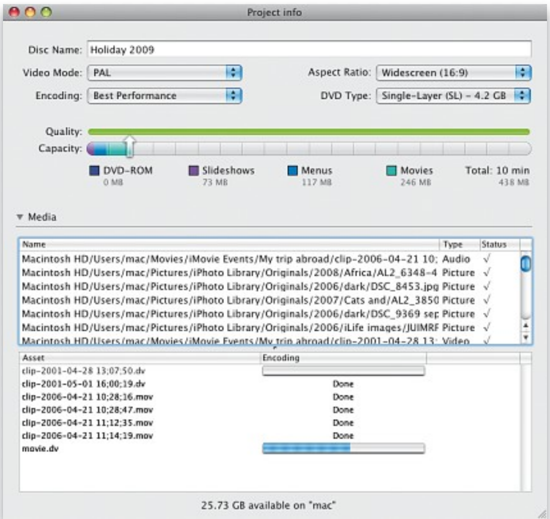
Access all the media on your Mac and drag and drop them into projects.

Precision Editor

More accurately set the point at which two clips intersect.

Easier DVD creation

Rather than starting a regular *iDVD* project, choose **Magic iDVD** from the startup menu. From the resulting window you can drop any movies, music or images from your Mac and your *iLife* libraries straight into simple, ready-made sections. Drop as many images as you like into a photo slot to create slideshows and add music to accompany them. Choose a theme and hit **Preview** so you can see *iDVD* weave the whole thing together for you. Then hit **Create Project** to open it in an editable *iDVD* view, or hit **Burn** to go straight to DVD burning. It's a very easy way to make a DVD.


Project info
Quality:
Capacity:
Media

Disc Name: Holiday 2009
Video Mode: PAL
Aspect Ratio: Widescreen (16:9)
Encoding: Best Performance
DVD Type: Single-Layer (SL) – 4.2 GB

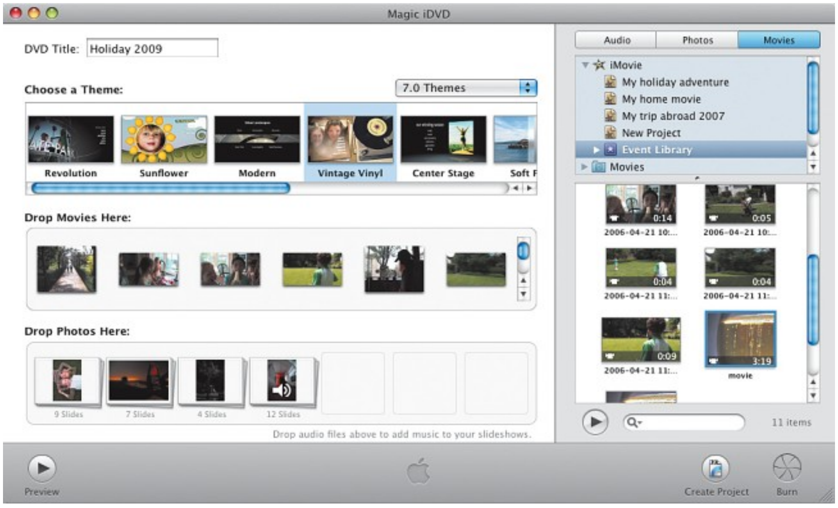
DVD-ROM	Slideshows	Menus	Movies	Total: 10 min
0 MB	73 MB	117 MB	246 MB	438 MB

Name	Type	Status
Macintosh HD/Users/mac/Movies/iMovie Events/My trip abroad/clip-2006-04-21 10;	Audio	√
Macintosh HD/Users/mac/Pictures/iPhoto Library/Originals/2008/Africa/AL2_6348-4	Picture	√
Macintosh HD/Users/mac/Pictures/iPhoto Library/Originals/2006/dark/DSC_8453.jpg	Picture	√
Macintosh HD/Users/mac/Pictures/iPhoto Library/Originals/2007/Cats and/AL2_3850	Picture	√
Macintosh HD/Users/mac/Pictures/iPhoto Library/Originals/2006/dark/DSC_9369 sep	Picture	√
Macintosh HD/Users/mac/Pictures/iPhoto Library/Originals/2006/iLife images/JUIMRF	Picture	√
Macintosh HD/Users/mac/Movies/iMovie Events/My trip abroad/clip-2001-04-28 13:	Video	√

Asset	Encoding
clip-2001-04-28 13;07;50.dv	
clip-2001-05-01 16;00;19.dv	Done
clip-2006-04-21 10;28;16.mov	Done
clip-2006-04-21 10;28;47.mov	Done
clip-2006-04-21 11;12;35.mov	Done
clip-2006-04-21 11;14;19.mov	Done
movie.dv	

25.73 GB available on "mac"

Use iDVD's Project Info menu to view the quality settings.


Magic iDVD
Choose a Theme:
Revolution
Sunflower
Modern
Vintage Vinyl
Center Stage
Soft F
Drop Movies Here:
Drop Photos Here:
9 Slides
7 Slides
4 Slides
12 Slides
Drop audio files above to add music to your slideshows.
Audio
Photos
Movies
iMovie
My holiday adventure
My home movie
My trip abroad 2007
New Project
Event Library
Movies
movie
11 items
Preview
Create Project
Burn

DVD Title: Holiday 2009
7.0 Themes

Use Magic iDVD to quickly drop movies, images and music into a ready-made template.

» QUICK TIP

After recording a voiceover, go to **Edit > Audio Adjustments**. Select the **Ducking** option plus a gain reduction amount; the volume of all other audio tracks playing at the same time will dip by that chosen amount.

Personalise your DVD interface

Adding a theme to a movie is great and can give the overall product a professional look. But to fully customise your DVD, open the **Inspector** window and you're able to edit the properties of everything you can see on-screen. Some notable things to try are changing the background music on the main screen and turning off **Snap to grid**, which enables you to drag buttons to whichever position you want them in. Both of these options are found by clicking in the background with the **Inspector** open. By clicking on each individual button you can change its font, colour and alignment. All these done together give your DVD its own unique look.

»

Make better music

Improve your GarageBand workflow and make great tracks…

» QUICK TIP

Any track in *GarageBand* can be automated, which means recording the movements of faders, panners and other settings and having the software recreate them every time the playhead passes over the automation data. Click the down arrow on a track's **Info** panel then activate automation and select an automation type – volume, pan, EQ and so on. Then click in the **Automation Lane** under the track to add keypoints. Drag these around to alter the levels and the times at which they change. Using this method it's easy to create more interesting finished projects.

Stay in tune

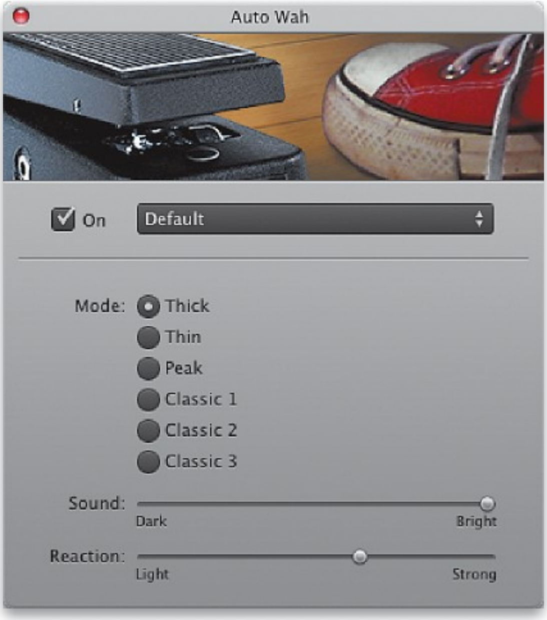
GarageBand has a digital tuner built in, so you can always tune up a guitar or bass, or indeed any instrument that requires tuning. You can access it by clicking the up or down arrows in *GarageBand*'s LED display until the tuner is displayed. It is able to read signals from whichever audio interface is currently selected; if you are using a built-in microphone on a laptop it would pick up any sounds you played or sung into it, or any signal sent in through a third-party audio interface, say over USB. Another good way to tune up is to load a music loop and tune to it. Any commercially recorded loops are certain to be in tune.

Change a project's tempo

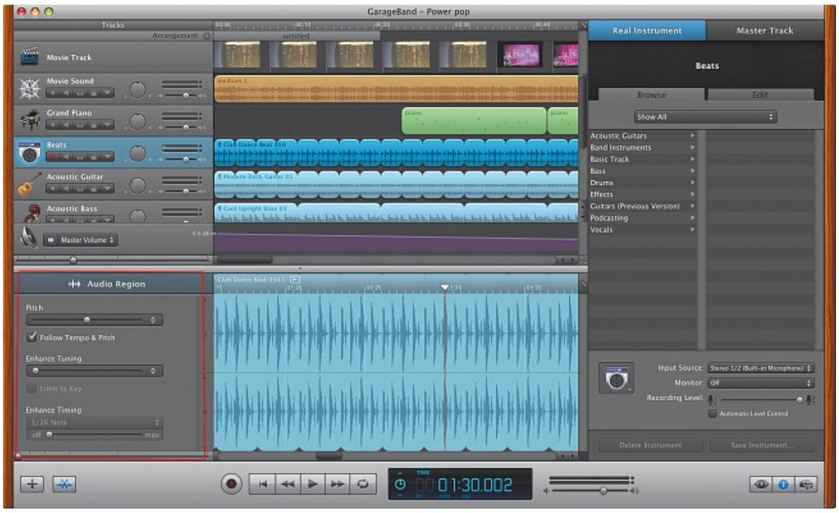
All the MIDI loops and audio loops supplied with *GarageBand* are able to automatically adjust their tempo to fit your project. This is also true of Apple Loops that you might add yourself from a commercial sample collection. But audio that you record yourself can also be rendered 'elastic'. When you record an audio part onto a track, double-click on it to view it in the Sample Editor. Then in the box to the left, check the box marked follow tempo and pitch. Now if you speed up or slow down the project using the Master Tempo control, your loops and audio tracks will all adjust themselves automatically with no rendering necessary.

Make music on the move

Although an external keyboard is helpful for playing musical notes into *GarageBand*, it's not absolutely necessary. In fact everything can be done using nothing more than your Mac's keyboard and mouse. Create a new software instrument track and then choose an instrument – say, a drum machine. Hold ⌘ and click in an empty area on the track to insert a blank 'block' of data. Double-click on it to open it in Key Edit view and you will find that by clicking on the tiny piano keys you can preview the sounds. Hold ⌘ while clicking inside the part and you'll see the Pen tool, which you can use to manually draw in notes, playing back in a loop as you go to hear the results. From the Window menu you can also invoke the virtual keyboard and musical typing input devices. All of these are great ways to program music using nothing but the Mac – say, for example, if you're on the move.


Auto Wah
☑ On
Default
Mode:
● Thick
Thin
Peak
Classic 1
Classic 2
Classic 3
Sound:
Dark
Bright
Reaction:
Light
Strong

Use the built-in effects and added AU files to enhance your track.

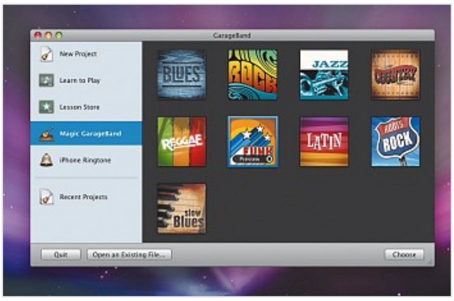

GarageBand – Power pop
Tracks
Movie Track
Movie Sound
Grand Piano
Beats
Acoustic Guitar
Acoustic Bass
Master Volume
Real Instrument
Master Track
Beats
Browse
Edit
Show All
Acoustic Guitars
Band Instruments
Basic Track
Bass
Drums
Effects
Guitars (Previous Version)
Podcasting
Vocals
Audio Region
Pitch
☑ Follow Tempo & Pitch
Enhance Tuning
Limit to Key
Enhance Timing
1/16 Note
Input Source:
Stereo 1/2 (Built-in Microphone)
Monitor:
Off
Recording Level:
Automatic Level Control
Delete Instrument
Save Instrument…
01:30.002

Audio that you import or record can be made to follow any project tempo by activating its Follow Tempo and Pitch box.

Skip the setup and start jamming

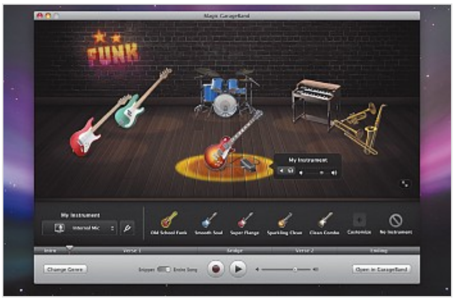
From *GarageBand*'s startup window you can choose a Magic GarageBand project which will load a pre-configured set of instruments and melodies. Click the Preview button on each one to see what it will sound like. Then when you choose one, it will load in a special window that looks like a stage. Select any instrument to alter its type – to swap drum kits, for example, or use the song structure line at the bottom to audition choruses and verses. In the centre you'll see 'my instrument', which could be a piano, guitar or vocal line. You can jam or record over the track. To work on the project in more detail, click Open in GarageBand. Now you can see the loops in the regular view so you can edit or remix them, and change the effects they have applied.

» HOW TO / Use Magic GarageBand to set up a project for jamming


GarageBand
New Project
Learn to Play
Lesson Store
Magic GarageBand
iPhone Ringtone
Recent Projects
BLUES
ROCK
JAZZ
COUNTRY
REGGAE
FUNK
LATIN
ROCK
slow Blues
Quit
Open an Existing File...
Choose

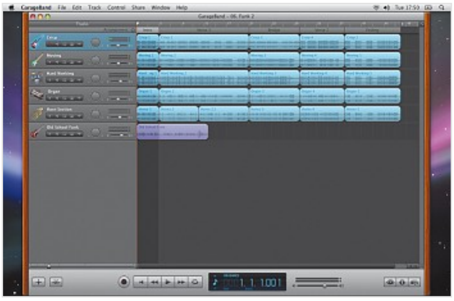
01 Choose a style

From *GarageBand's* **Project** menu, choose **Magic GarageBand**. Preview a style by clicking on it without having to load it first. When you have decided, click the **Choose** button to load the relevant instruments. This might take a moment.


Magic GarageBand
FUNK
My Instrument
Change Genre
Open in GarageBand

02 Choosing instruments

Click on any of the instruments to choose an alternative style. Click on **My Instrument** and choose a microphone, keyboard or guitar. Then hit **Record** and jam over the project, noting the verse, chorus and bridge sections displayed along the bottom.

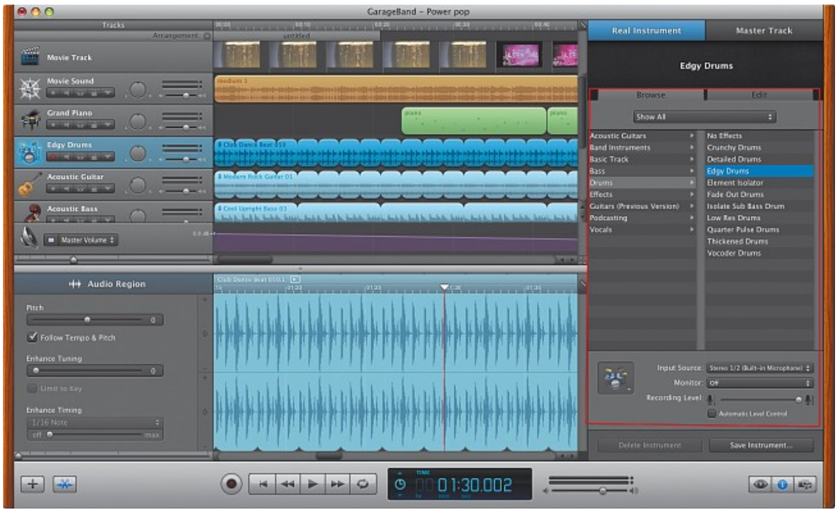


03 Edit the project

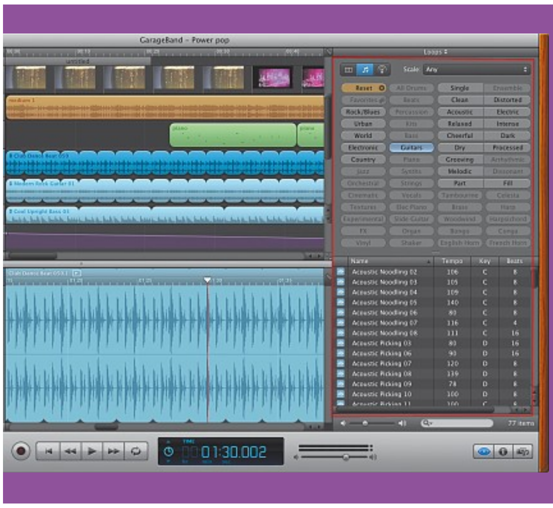
When you're done recording, click **Open in GarageBand** and you'll see the project laid out like a conventional track. Now you can alter the arrangement, add or remove parts and effects and mix the whole thing down for export to CD or *iTunes*. ●

Add third-party effects

GarageBand comes with some great built-in effects for adding depth and interest to your music tracks, and also for getting a good balance when it comes to mixdown. But it can also see any other, third-party effects that you have installed as long as they are in Apple's Audio Units format. The good news is that there are hundreds of these available, and many of them are inexpensive or even free. They range from the more subtle effects like reverbs and compressors, to the crazy and wacky for extreme sound mangling. Apple sells a good range itself (take a look at http://store.apple.com/uk) or do a quick Google search and you will be able to find some good free ones. If you change your mind and don't wish to use an effect again, you can delete them from the Components folder, which can be found at Macintosh HD > Library > Audio > Plug-Ins > Components.


GarageBand – Power pop
Tracks
Movie Track
Movie Sound
Grand Piano
Edgy Drums
Acoustic Guitar
Acoustic Bass
Master Volume
Audio Region
Pitch
Follow Tempo & Pitch
Enhance Tuning
Enhance Timing
Real Instrument
Master Track
Edgy Drums
Browse
Edit
Show All
Acoustic Guitars
Band Instruments
Basic Track
Bass
Drums
Effects
Guitars (Previous Version)
Podcasting
Vocals
No Effects
Crunchy Drums
Detailed Drums
Edgy Drums
Element Isolator
Fade Out Drums
Isolate Sub Bass Drum
Low Res Drums
Quarter Pulse Drums
Thickened Drums
Vocoder Drums
Input Source:
Monitor:
Recording Level:
Automatic Level Control
Delete Instrument
Save Instrument...
01:30.002

Add your own loops by dragging them. Add tags so that they can be found by the searching system.


GarageBand – Power pop
Loops
01:30.002

Add your own loops to the loop library and tag them

GarageBand's loop tagging system makes it easy to sort through thousands of loops to find material of a specific kind. So filter using the categories **Electronic** and **Drums** to see those kinds of loops. You can also drag any file from the Desktop of your Mac onto the loop browser area in *GarageBand* and the software will copy and convert it to the correct format, then present you with a window where you can specify its type and characteristics. After this, it will be part of the library and fully searchable.

GarageBand has presets for tracks you can call up, and with effects already inserted.

» QUICK TIP

You can send any music from *GarageBand* to *iTunes* as a ringtone, ready to be synced to your iPhone. Select a section of 40 seconds or less and choose Share > Send Ringtone to iTunes. If you drag the resulting file out of *iTunes* you can email it to friends. It's a great way to create customised ringtones for your iPhone.

»

Take control of iWeb

Apple's web design app may look simple but it's full of features

» QUICK TIP

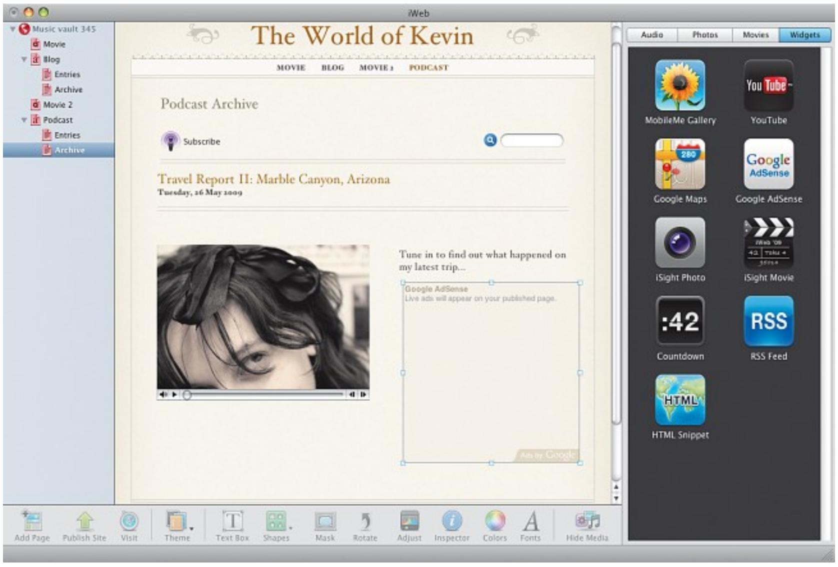
When resizing boxes, movies or images in an *iWeb* page, dragging will normally scale them starting with the point you grabbed hold of. If you hold the ⌥ key, the item will be scaled using the centre as its focal point, which is sometimes preferable. If you hold the ⌘ key while mousing over the corner of an image, you get the option to rotate it to any angle.

Add Google Ads to your website

iWeb, *iLife*'s web building program, makes it easy to embed things into your web pages that once would have been complex or impossible for home users to do. Everyone is looking to make some money out of the web, and one way to do this is by adding a Google Ads box to a page. In *iWeb*, go to the Widgets section and drag and drop a Google Ads box somewhere onto the page. You will be prompted to create an account or use an existing one. Use the Inspector to set the size and colour of the box to suit the design of your page. When the site is published, Google's fiendishly complicated advert code will all be taken care of for you, and ads will appear related to the content of your page. And if your site proves to be popular, you stand a chance of making at least some money off it.

Quickly mask images within iWeb

It's common to use pictures on a web page but you normally have to edit the picture in *iPhoto* or *Photoshop* to focus in on the area you want, in order to make the picture look better on the page. But you don't have to use a separate image editor if you're using *iWeb*. In *iWeb*, you can select an image and then click Edit Mask from the pop-up editor. Drag the handles of the box to resize it, and use the Edit slider to zoom in and out, repositioning the picture to change how much of it is visible. This is a very quick and easy way of masking images, and you can make any changes at any time without having to leave *iWeb* to start editing image sizes.



iWeb
Music vault 345
Movie
Blog
Entries
Archive
Movie 2
Podcast
Entries
Archive
MOVIE
BLOG
MOVIE 2
PODCAST
Subscribe
Audio
Photos
Movies
Widgets
MobileMe Gallery
YouTube
Google Maps
Google AdSense
iSight Photo
iSight Movie
Countdown
RSS Feed
HTML Snippet
Add Page
Publish Site
Visit
Theme
Text Box
Shapes
Mask
Rotate
Adjust
Inspector
Colors
Fonts
Hide Media

The World of Kevin

Podcast Archive

Travel Report II: Marble Canyon, Arizona
Tuesday, 26 May 2009

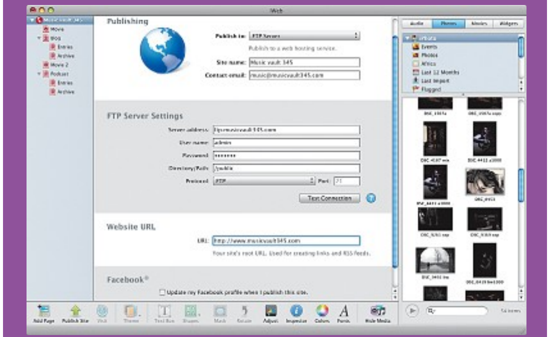
Tune in to find out what happened on my latest trip...

Google AdSense
Live ads will appear on your published page.

By adding Google Ads to your page, a popular site can start to generate a little money.

Use your own domain name with iWeb and MobileMe

By clicking on the **Site** tab at the top-left in *iWeb* you can set it up to publish either to MobileMe or to your own FTP server or to a local folder. There's also an option to update your Facebook profile whenever you update the site and *iWeb* will remember your details. The FTP uploading feature is great for using your own domain name such as **www.myname.com**. However, even if you use MobileMe you can still use your own domain name, which is often better than the default MobileMe-assigned URL. Go to File > Set up personal domain and log into MobileMe's account page. Click on **Personal Domain** to the left and follow the instructions. Next time you publish the site, the URL should change to reflect the personalised one you have set up.



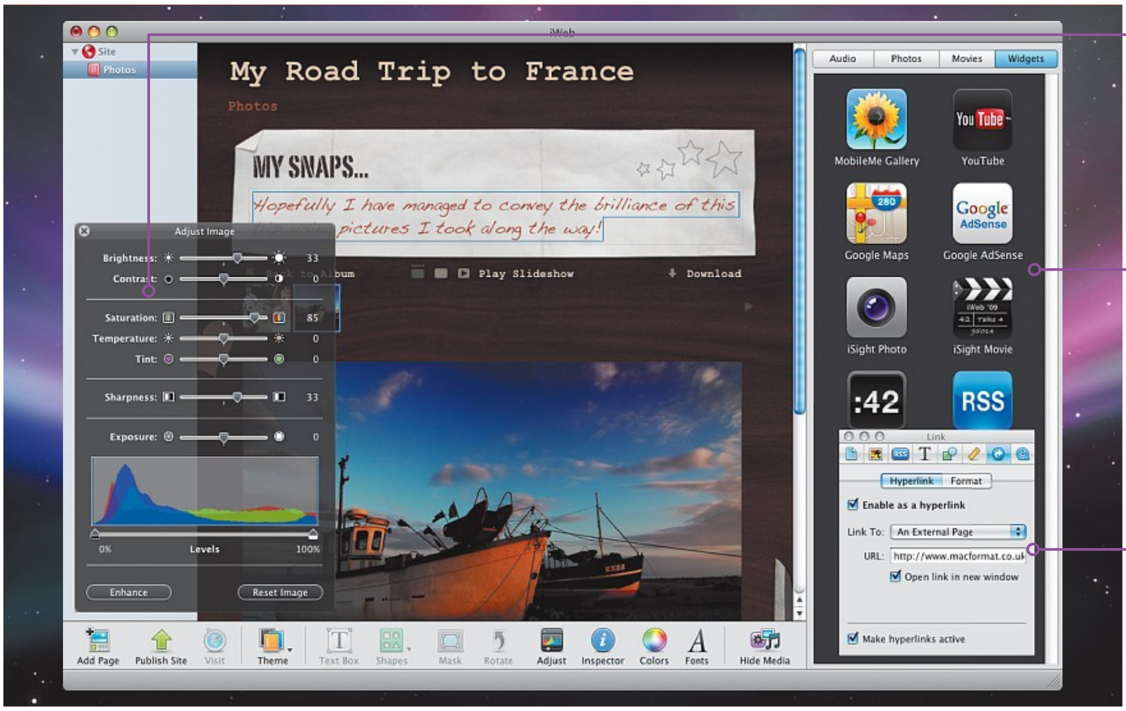
iWeb
Publishing
FTP Server Settings
Website URL
Facebook
Test Connection
Audio
Photos
Movies
Widgets

Upload sites to your own FTP space or MobileMe's.

Add rich content to your page

As with all of Apple's software, *iWeb* works seemlessly with MobileMe, the company's online storage service (£59 per year, www.apple.com/uk/mobileme). Using *iWeb*'s Widgets tab, you can drag and drop various complex items into your pages and place them wherever you like. If you drop a *MobileMe Gallery* widget onto your web page, you're able to select from any movie or image galleries you have previously uploaded to MobileMe. The *YouTube* and *Google Maps* widgets let you embed videos or interactive maps by simply typing a location to specify the starting point in the case of maps. *iSight photo and movie* lets you take pictures or record movies directly into a page if your Mac has an iSight camera built in (iMacs and all Apple notebooks have them now). The *HTML snippet* widget lets you embed bits of other sites into your site – say, for example, a stock ticker or weather forecast.

» QUICK LOOK / The best bits of iWeb '09


iWeb
Site
Photos
My Road Trip to France
Photos
MY SNAPS...
Hopefully I have managed to convey the brilliance of this pictures I took along the way!
Play Slideshow
Download
Adjust Image
Brightness: 33
Contrast: 0
Saturation: 85
Temperature: 0
Tint: 0
Sharpness: 33
Exposure: 0
0% Levels 100%
Enhance
Reset Image
Audio
Photos
Movies
Widgets
MobileMe Gallery
YouTube
Google Maps
Google AdSense
iSight Photo
iSight Movie
:42
RSS
Link
Hyperlink
Format
Add Page
Publish Site
Visit
Theme
Text Box
Shapes
Mask
Rotate
Adjust
Inspector
Colors
Fonts
Hide Media

☑ Enable as a hyperlink
Link To: An External Page
URL: http://www.macformat.co.uk
☑ Open link in new window
☑ Make hyperlinks active

Adjust palette

Click on images in *iWeb* and use the **Adjust** palette to change their appearance just like you would in *iPhoto*.

Widgets

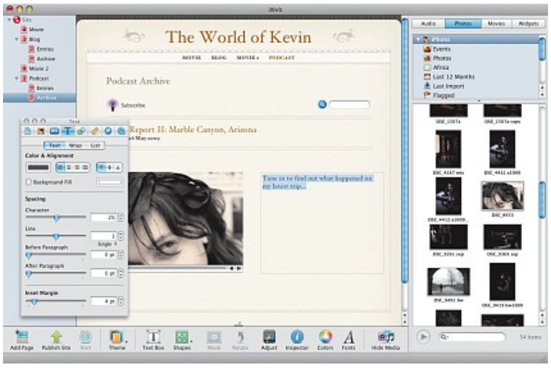
Drop these useful widgets into pages to simplify embedding complex items like Google Maps, Google Ads, YouTube videos and MobileMe galleries.

Inspector

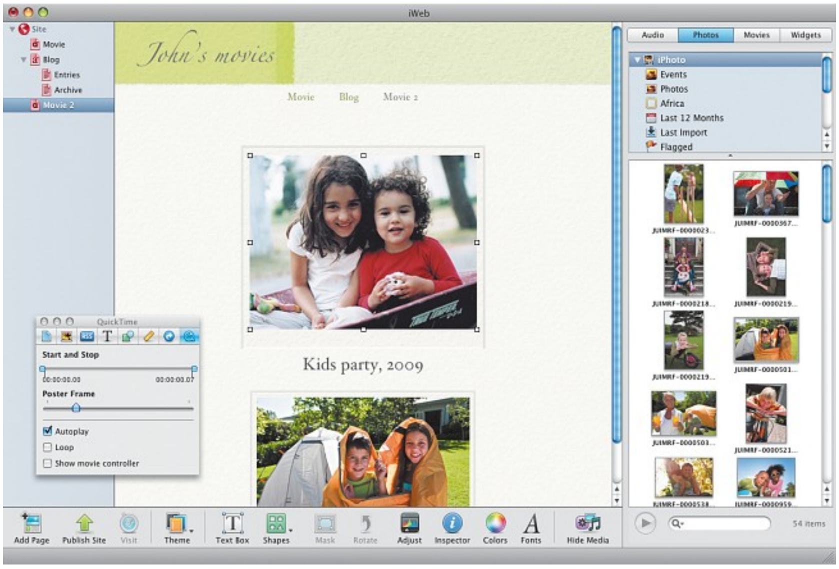
The **Inspector** contains options and settings for whatever element you have selected.

Make files downloadable

There are many occasions when you might want to make a file downloadable from a web page. To do this, enter some text or place an image to act as the link, then open the Inspector, and with the text or image selected from the Link Inspector tab, choose Enable as hyperlink and Make hyperlinks active. Then from the Link To menu, choose A File and navigate to the file you wish to use. It makes sense if collecting several items together to zip them into a single ZIP archive using *Finder* (create a new folder, right-click and choose Compress [folder name] in Leopard or Create Archive of [folder name] in Tiger or earlier). Next time you publish the site, the file will be uploaded too, so it will be available. When you save your site in *iWeb*, a copy of the file will be placed into the Domain file where *iWeb* stores all its files so you could then delete it from the Desktop.


The World of Kevin
Podcast Archive
Subscribe
Report II: Marble Canyon, Arizona

Adding pages for podcasts and integrating RSS feeds is easy.


iWeb
Site
Movie
Blog
Entries
Archive
Movie 2
John's movies
Movie
Blog
Movie 2
Kids party, 2009
QuickTime
Start and Stop
Poster Frame
Audio
Photos
Movies
Widgets
iPhoto
Events
Photos
Africa
Last 12 Months
Last Import
Flagged
54 items

☑ Autoplay
☐ Loop
☐ Show movie controller

When embedding movies, use the QuickTime tab in the Inspector window to set properties, like hiding the playback bar.

Take control of embedded movies

Dropping QuickTime movies into an *iWeb* page is simple from the Movies browser, as is resizing them. But if you open the Inspector window you'll see a QuickTime tab containing options for the movie. You might not want the first frame of the movie to display before it is played, so you can change the Poster Frame. You can also set it to auto play and loop – or not – and hide the movie controller if you don't want viewers to be able to manually start and stop it. ●

» QUICK TIP

Click on an image in *iWeb* and you can use the **Adjust** palette to edit it. You get controls virtually identical to those in *iPhoto*. Use the **Enhance** button to boost levels, brightness and contrast.

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+ 50% off Advanced IMAP mailboxes

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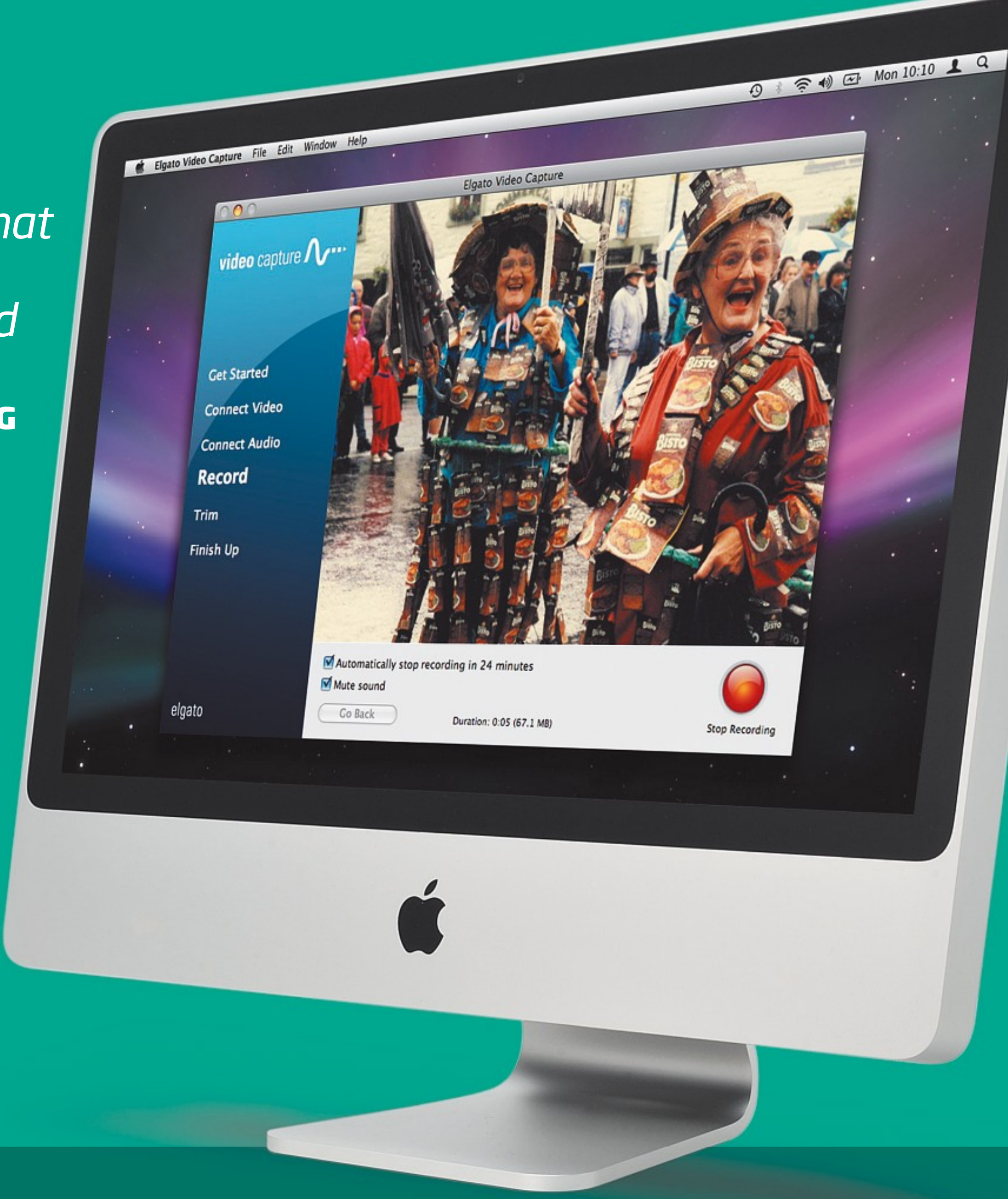
"You never know what gems are lurking in your old VHS, LP and photo collections!"

DIGITISING AND SHARING ANALOGUE MEDIA P49



☑ Automatically stop recording in 24 minutes

☑ Mute sound

Duration: 0:05 (67.1 MB)

In this issue...

PHOTOS

Improve a photo's definition 42
Get perfect prints with iPhoto 44

MOVIES

View two clips on one screen 46
Import analogue media 49

SYSTEM

Improve your iSight footage 54
Get more from Quick Look 56
Install programs correctly 60
Cleanly remove programs 62
Protect kids online 64

How to...

● PHOTOS ● MOVIES ● MUSIC ● OFFICE ● SYSTEM

Christopher Phin
Deputy Editor

While we've got some cracking tutorials this issue on using your Mac for fun, creative tasks – using *iMovie*'s picture-in-picture feature (p46) is a great example – I'm delighted that we've not forgotten about hidden tips, tricks and best-practice advice for everyday Mac computing.

How often, for example, have you wanted to uninstall an application – especially if you've switched from Windows – but not known how to go about it? Turn to p62 for an essential primer in understanding how to do it. And look out for the companion piece on p60 telling you how to install apps correctly in the first place!

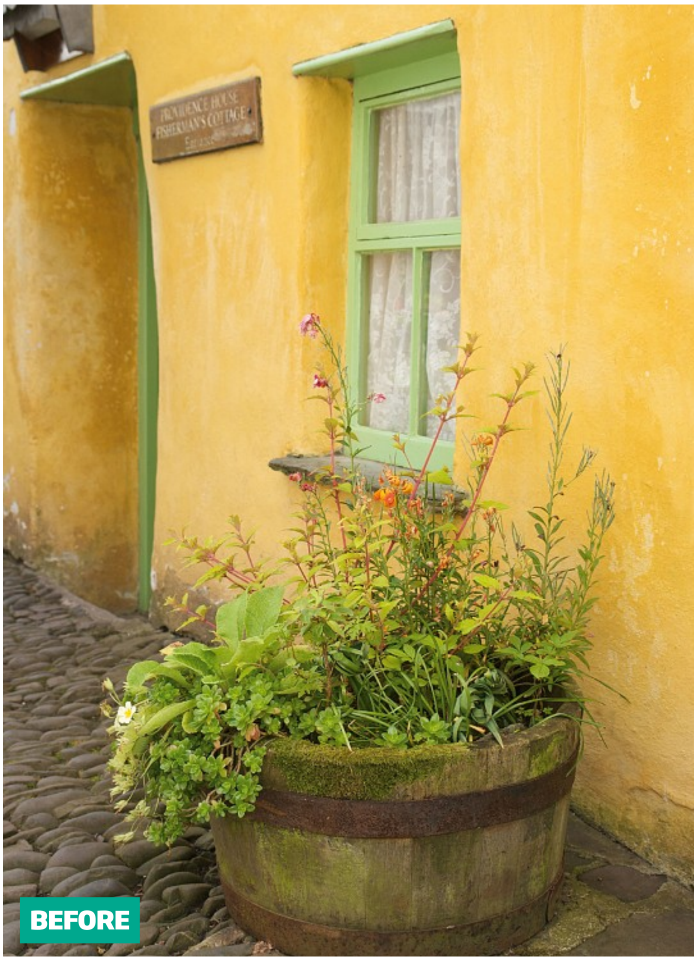
If you use your built-in iSight camera – or indeed pretty much any external webcam – for video chatting, you should check out our advice on improving its output, on p54.

All of which leaves me just enough space to shout about my own tutorial this month: if you have stacks of LPs, old VHS tapes and photographs, our guide to digitising analogue media on p49 tells you everything you need to know!

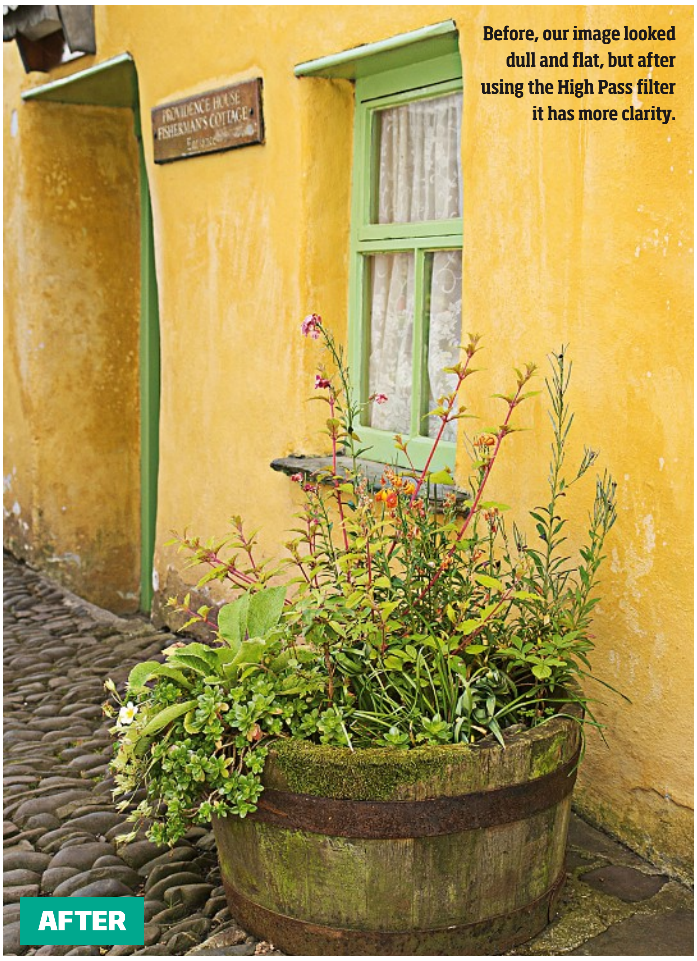
>>DID YOU KNOW?

Kensington

Don't have a Mighty Mouse but are a bit jealous of its ability to scroll horizontally as well as vertically? Hold down ⇧ while you scroll up and down, and the Mac will switch this to left and right. (Some apps behave differently – *InDesign*, for example, substitutes ⌘ – but ⇧ is the default.)



BEFORE



AFTER

Before, our image looked dull and flat, but after using the High Pass filter it has more clarity.

Improve a photo's definition

Here's a sharpening technique which offers great flexibility and scope

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
Adobe Photoshop or Elements (from £68, **www.adobe.com/uk**)

There's no shortage of sharpening tools in *Photoshop*, and they can be very effective indeed at bringing out fine detail. But they all suffer from two particular shortcomings.

Firstly, once the effect has been applied, you're stuck with it – you have to get the settings right or face starting all over again. Secondly, they're all good at enhancing detail at a pixel level, but you can still end up with a flat and lifeless picture.

Photoshop's **High Pass** filter gets around both these, and although it's a little more basic and long-winded than conventional sharpening methods, it gives you more flexibility.

It also gives you a better insight into how visual sharpness works. Sharpness is not just a small-scale phenomenon that only applies to fine detail, but something which can be applied on a broader scale to improve the picture's clarity.

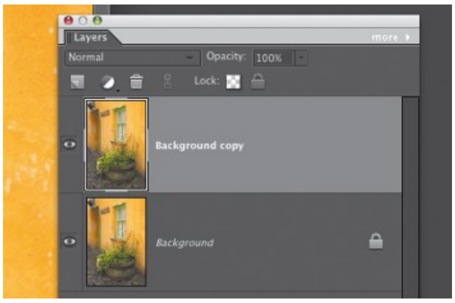
This is a rather woolly idea that is best demonstrated with an example. The 'before' image above looks flat, and conventional sharpening techniques don't really make much difference. It takes a broader sharpening adjustment to put this right; an adjustment that doesn't make any difference to the fine detail, but subtly alters brightness values across a much larger pixel radius to make these objects really stand out from each other.

> *"Photoshop's High Pass filter is long-winded but gives you more flexibility when sharpening images"*

It's not conventional sharpening – we'll call it clarity instead – but the tools used are the same in both cases, and our walkthrough shows how the **High Pass** filter can be used to produce conventional pixel-level sharpening and enhance this broader image clarity too.

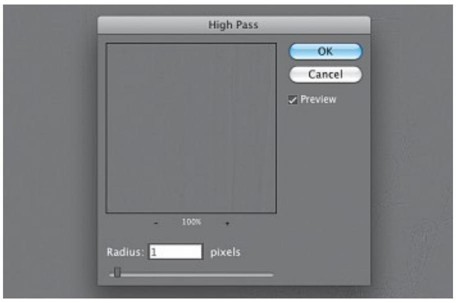
In fact, you can apply both effects to the same image by using two **High Pass** layers. And you can adjust the strength of the effects retrospectively by adjusting the layer opacity.
Rod Lawton

HOW TO / Sharpen images with the High Pass filter


Layers
more
Normal
Opacity: 100%
Lock:
Background copy
Background

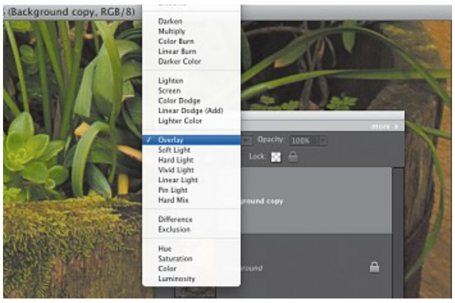
01 Duplicate the layer

This technique can be applied in both *Photoshop* and *Elements* - we're using *Elements*. The first step is to duplicate the image layer, by dragging its icon onto the **New Layer** button on the **Layers** palette. We're going to apply the **High Pass** filter to this duplicate layer.


High Pass
OK
Cancel
Preview
100%
Radius: 1 pixels

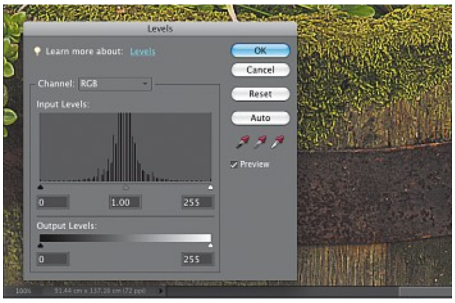
02 High Pass filter

The **High Pass** filter's **Radius** value is comparable to the **Radius** setting in the **Unsharp Mask** dialog, and for enhancing fine detail a **Radius** of **1 pixel** is a good starting point. This produces a grey-toned image where you can just make out the edges of objects.


(Background copy, RGB/8)
Darken
Multiply
Color Burn
Linear Burn
Darker Color
Lighten
Screen
Color Dodge
Linear Dodge (Add)
Lighter Color
Overlay
Soft Light
Hard Light
Vivid Light
Linear Light
Pin Light
Hard Mix
Difference
Exclusion
Hue
Saturation
Color
Luminosity
Opacity: 100%
Lock:

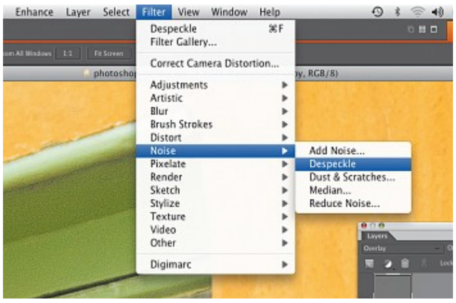
03 Select Overlay mode

The effect becomes visible when you change the new layer's blend mode to **Overlay**. So grey areas (where there's no detail) don't affect the image underneath, while the darker or lighter outlines created by the **High Pass** filter produce a localised contrast increase.


Levels
Learn more about: Levels
OK
Cancel
Reset
Auto
Channel: RGB
Input Levels:
0
1.00
255
Output Levels:
0
255
Preview

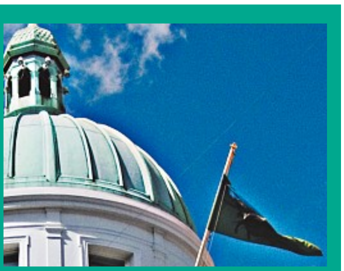
04 Auto levels

The effect is subtle, and if you check the levels for this **High Pass** filter layer, you'll see that the histogram is bunched around the 50% grey tone. Apply auto levels and this stretches out to produce a stronger sharpening effect. if it's too strong, it's easily adjusted...


Enhance
Layer
Select
Filter
View
Window
Help
Despeckle
Filter Gallery...
Correct Camera Distortion...
Adjustments
Artistic
Blur
Brush Strokes
Distort
Noise
Pixelate
Render
Sketch
Stylize
Texture
Video
Other
Digimarc
Add Noise...
Despeckle
Dust & Scratches...
Median...
Reduce Noise...

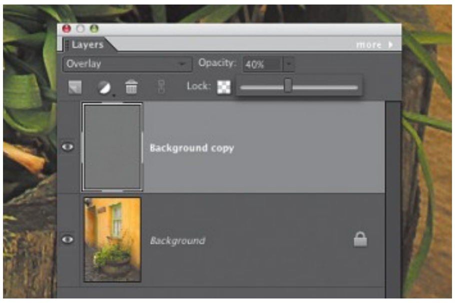
05 Reducing noise

The first problem is increased noise, especially if the picture was taken at a high ISO. To fix this, with the **High Pass** layer selected, apply the **Despeckle** filter. This should cut the noise substantially. You can apply it a second time, or try the **Reduce Noise** filter instead.



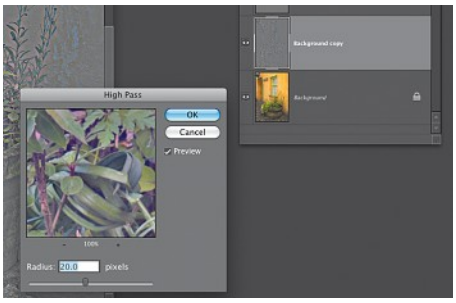
QUICK TIP

Using the **High Pass** filter with a large **Radius** value produces a diffused halo effect, which sticks out in areas of even tone. Here, you can see the pale glow around the dark pennant and a darker glow created by the bright dome.


Layers
more
Overlay
Opacity: 40%
Lock:
Background copy
Background

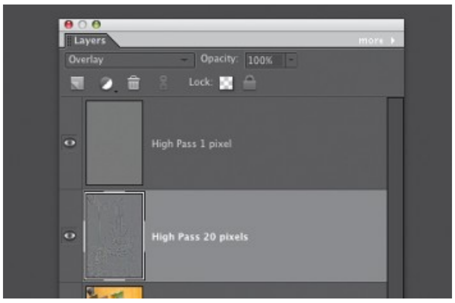
06 Reducing the sharpening

Noise is unlikely to be the only problem; the detail may look oversharpened. To fix this, reduce the opacity of the **High Pass** layer. This also reduces the appearance of noise, so one pass of the **Despeckle** filter will do. Even with sharper fine detail, this image still looks flat.


Background copy
Background
High Pass
OK
Cancel
Preview
100%
Radius: 20.0 pixels

07 Enhancing definition

Although the detail has been enhanced at a pixel level, larger objects still aren't well distinguished. The picture needs more overall clarity; for this we'll duplicate the original image layer again and re-apply the **High Pass** filter but with a **Radius** value of **20 pixels**.


Layers
more
Overlay
Opacity: 100%
Lock:
High Pass 1 pixel
High Pass 20 pixels

08 Softening halos

Set the blend mode to **Overlay**, and there is a sharpening effect, but on a different scale. This is a low-frequency sharpening that picks out shapes and objects rather than individual details. Between them, the layers have improved both fine detail and clarity. ●

Get perfect prints with iPhoto

You don't need a fancy, expensive image editor to get stunning prints

KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Apple iPhoto '09 (£65, part of iLife '09, **http://store.apple.com/uk**)

Why waste time exporting pictures to *Photoshop* or some other application when you can print them perfectly well from within *iPhoto* itself?

You can produce prints at any standard size or create a custom size. And as long as your printer supports it, borderless printing is easy if you know where all the printing options are, how they work and the order in which to approach them.

iPhoto provides a range of more sophisticated effects when you have set up a print project, you can add a **Simple Border**, create a **Contact Sheet** to show the contents of your albums or events, and print realistic, textured mats to show off your photos to best effect.

These **Single Mats** or **Double Mats** are digital alternatives to cardboard mounts. Why pay to get proper bevel-cut windows when *iPhoto* can do them for you? (Well, sort of.) *iPhoto*'s **Mats** aren't quite as good as the real thing, but they do set off framed photos nicely. At least Apple has resisted the temptation to include unconvincing metal, wood or other faux-3D frames seen in some applications we could mention...

Printing with *iPhoto* is much like printing from any other application. Some settings, like the paper sizes, printing presets and borderless options, are supplied by the printer driver. Others, like the layout tools and framing effects, are generated by the software. Our walkthrough shows which is which.

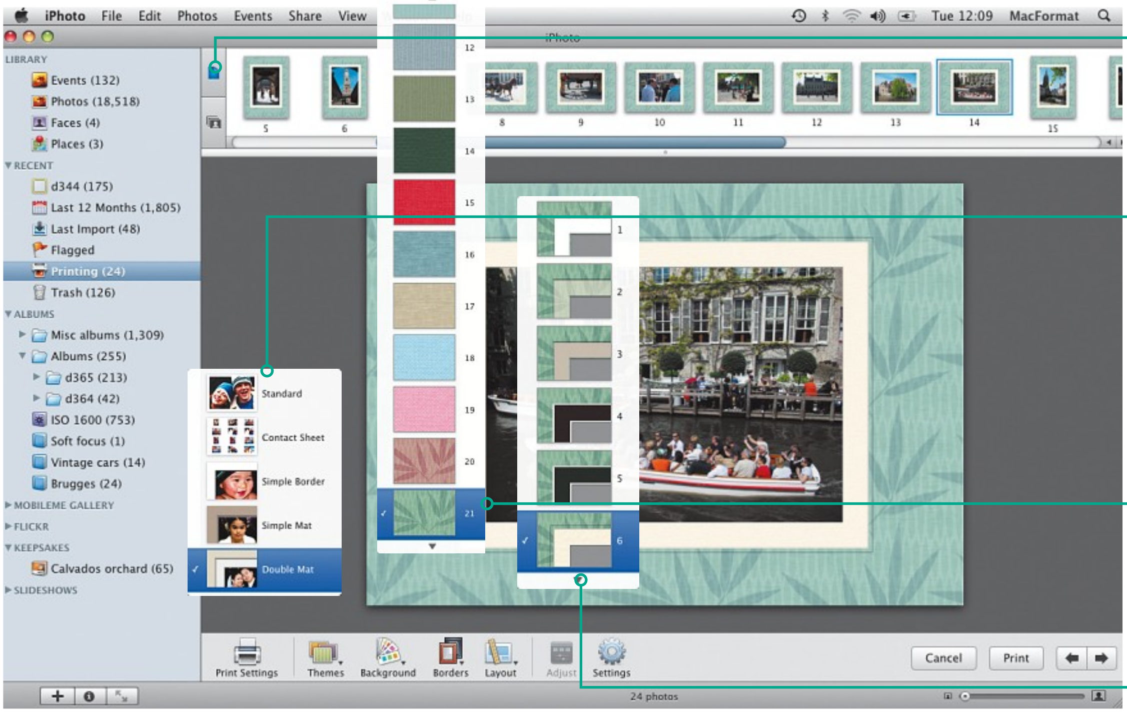
> *"You can add a border, create a contact sheet and show off photos to best effect"*

There is one possible source of confusion. You can print pictures straight using the default options, but the moment you change these with the **Customize...** button, you create a **Print Project**. This appears in the **Recent** section to the left and persists even if you close down *iPhoto* and restart it. You can cancel the **Print Project** and start again.

Finally, there's the online printing tools. The toolbar at the bottom of the window will have an **Order Prints** button (if you've set it to display). These are printed and dispatched by Apple. It's easy but not the cheapest way of doing it. Instead, you can gather all the pictures you want to print into an album, then export them into a folder and upload them to a third-party online lab.

Rod Lawton

QUICK LOOK / Your printing options explained


iPhoto File Edit Photos Events Share View
Tue 12:09 MacFormat
iPhoto
LIBRARY
Events (132)
Photos (18,518)
Faces (4)
Places (3)
RECENT
d344 (175)
Last 12 Months (1,805)
Last Import (48)
Flagged
Printing (24)
Trash (126)
ALBUMS
Misc albums (1,309)
Albums (255)
d365 (213)
d364 (42)
ISO 1600 (753)
Soft focus (1)
Vintage cars (14)
Bruggs (24)
MOBILEME GALLERY
FLICKR
KEEPSAKES
Calvados orchard (65)
SLIDESHOWS
Standard
Contact Sheet
Simple Border
Simple Mat
Double Mat
Print Settings
Themes
Background
Borders
Layout
Adjust
Settings
Cancel
Print
24 photos

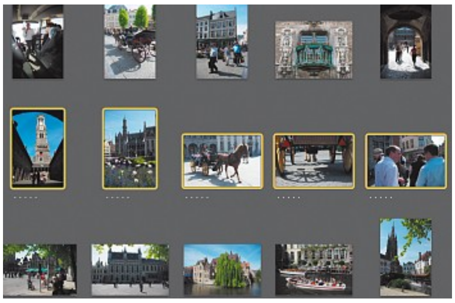
Filmstrip
You can either view project pages as they will print or the photos used in the project.

Themes
Choices include **Contact Sheet**, **Simple Border** or **Single/Double Mats**.

Background
If you choose to print with a Mat, pick one you like from here.

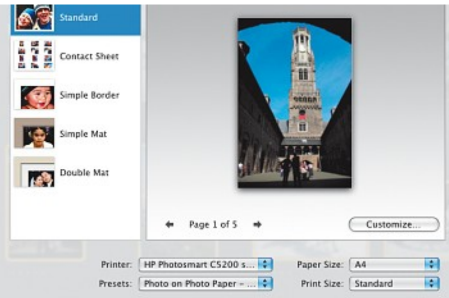
Border options
Theme dependent. With a Mat theme, you choose a colour set.

HOW TO / Print better pictures in iPhoto



01 Select your photo(s)

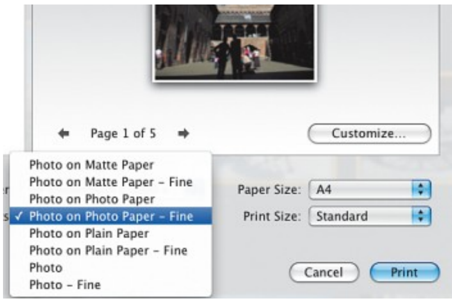
You can print a single photo or several. If you intend to print more than a few, it's worth creating a new album specifically to keep them separate. Next, go to File > Print (⌘+P). You can do this when editing in the main window, too, though not in full-screen mode.


Standard
Contact Sheet
Simple Border
Simple Mat
Double Mat
Page 1 of 5
Customize...

Printer: HP Photosmart C5200 s...
Presets: Photo on Photo Paper – ...
Paper Size: A4
Print Size: Standard

02 Layout choices

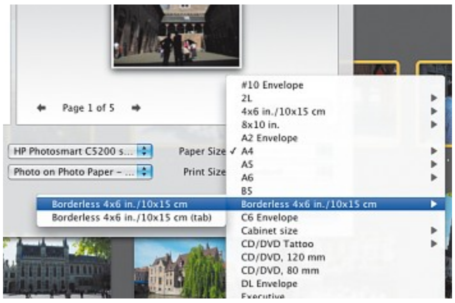
Now *iPhoto* pops up a window where you can choose the type of print you want. We'll keep it simple and assume you want to produce a standard borderless print – the first option. If you've selected more than one photo, cycle through the pages to preview each one.


Page 1 of 5
Customize...
Photo on Matte Paper
Photo on Matte Paper – Fine
Photo on Photo Paper
✓ Photo on Photo Paper – Fine
Photo on Plain Paper
Photo on Plain Paper – Fine
Photo
Photo – Fine
Cancel
Print

Paper Size: A4
Print Size: Standard

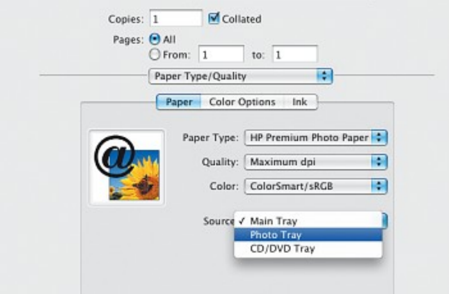
03 Printer and presets

Check the printer settings. If you only have one printer installed, this will be selected in the **Printer** pop-up. Now check the **Presets** pop-up to make sure you're printing at the right quality setting on the right kind of paper. These come from the printer driver so will vary.


Page 1 of 5
HP Photosmart C5200 s...
Photo on Photo Paper – ...
Paper Size
Print Size
Borderless 4x6 in./10x15 cm
Borderless 4x6 in./10x15 cm (tab)
#10 Envelope
2L
4x6 in./10x15 cm
8x10 in.
A2 Envelope
✓ A4
A5
A6
B5
Borderless 4x6 in./10x15 cm
C6 Envelope
Cabinet size
CD/DVD Tattoo
CD/DVD, 120 mm
CD/DVD, 80 mm
DL Envelope
Executive

04 Paper and print size

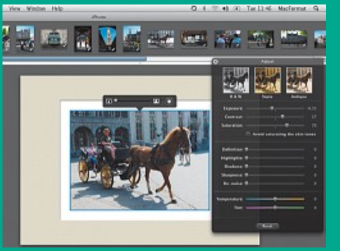
Use the **Paper Size** pop-up to select the paper. On some printers the **Borderless** option is only available if you've selected a borderless paper size. Then use the **Print Size** pop-up to choose a specific print size, or print a standard (with border) or a borderless photo.


Paper Type/Quality
Paper
Color Options
Ink
✓ Main Tray
Photo Tray
CD/DVD Tray

Copies: 1 ☑ Collated
Pages: ● All
○ From: 1 to: 1
Paper Type: HP Premium Photo Paper
Quality: Maximum dpi
Color: ColorSmart/sRGB
Source: Photo Tray

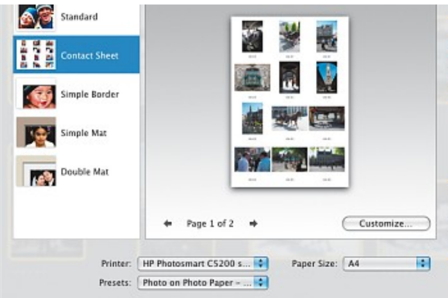
05 Printer settings

When you press the **Print** button in the previous dialog you get to the **Print** dialog. This should be populated with the settings you've made, but there is one thing to check – if you're printing on to 6x4-inch photo paper, make sure the correct paper tray has been selected.



QUICK TIP

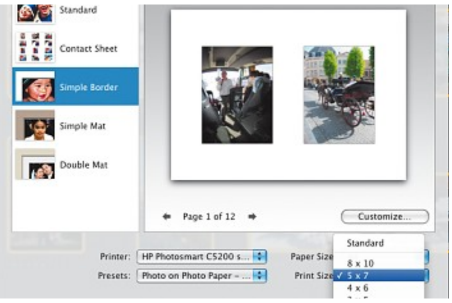
When working on a **Print Project**, you can select and edit a photo independently of the main *iPhoto* library. First, click on the photo in the main window, then click the **Adjust** button. You get a limited range of adjustments and effects.


Standard
Contact Sheet
Simple Border
Simple Mat
Double Mat
Page 1 of 2
Customize...

Printer: HP Photosmart C5200 s...
Presets: Photo on Photo Paper – ...
Paper Size: A4

06 Contact sheets

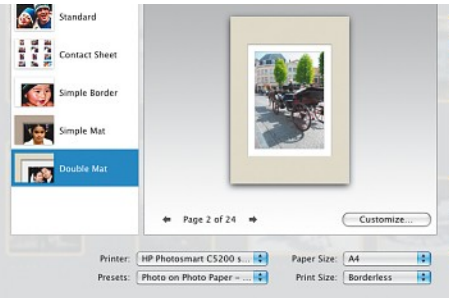
You can generate a contact sheet from a batch of photos; for smaller thumbnails, click the **Customize...** button. You'll now be able to move a slider to change the number of columns and use the **Settings** button to change the information displayed below the pictures.


Standard
Contact Sheet
Simple Border
Simple Mat
Double Mat
Page 1 of 12
Customize...
Standard
8 x 10
✓ 5 x 7
4 x 6

Printer: HP Photosmart C5200 s...
Presets: Photo on Photo Paper – ...

07 Simple Borders

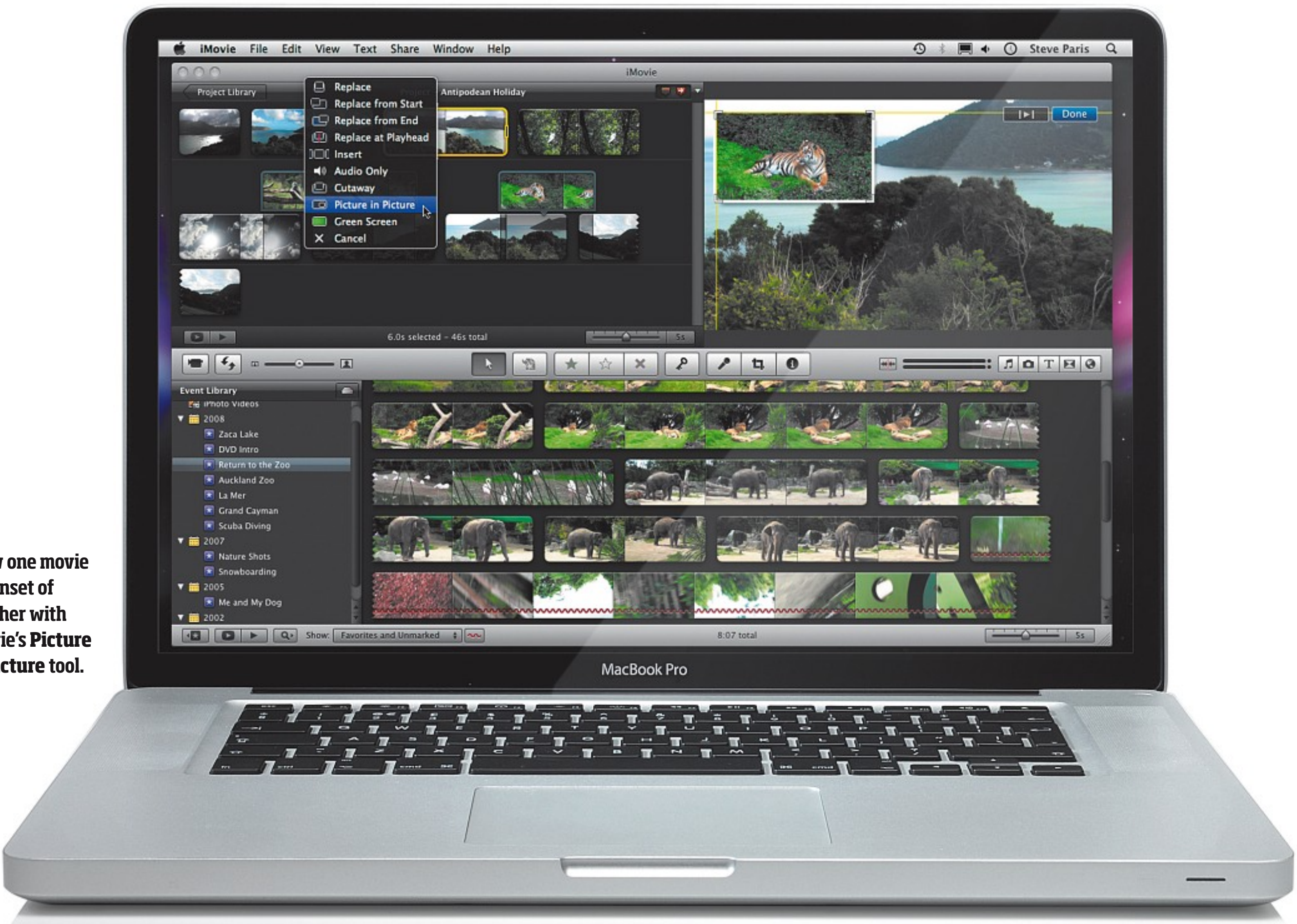
Simple Borders shrinks the photo so there's a wide border around it and it applies a thin black keyline. You can't change the size of either. (Note, if you pick a print size a lot smaller than the paper size, *iPhoto* will automatically print more than one photo on the sheet.)


Standard
Contact Sheet
Simple Border
Simple Mat
Double Mat
Page 2 of 24
Customize...

Printer: HP Photosmart C5200 s...
Presets: Photo on Photo Paper – ...
Paper Size: A4
Print Size: Borderless

08 Mat options

For coloured borders, choose **Single Mat** or **Double Mat**. These simulate coloured, textured papers and are easier and cheaper than real bevelled mounts. If you don't like the default beige colour, click **Customize...** and choose one of the many alternatives. ●


iMovie File Edit View Text Share Window Help
Steve Paris
iMovie
Project Library
Antipodean Holiday
Replace
Replace from Start
Replace from End
Replace at Playhead
Insert
Audio Only
Cutaway
Picture in Picture
Green Screen
Cancel
Done
6.0s selected - 46s total
Event Library
iPhoto Videos
2008
Zaca Lake
DVD Intro
Return to the Zoo
Auckland Zoo
La Mer
Grand Cayman
Scuba Diving
2007
Nature Shots
Snowboarding
2005
Me and My Dog
2002
Show: Favorites and Unmarked
8:07 total
MacBook Pro

View one movie clip inset of another with iMovie's Picture in Picture tool.

View two clips on one screen

With iMovie's Picture in Picture tool, it's easy to watch two movies at once

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 25 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
Apple iMovie 8.0.2 or later (£65, part of iLife '09, **http://store.apple.com/uk**)
Footage stored on your Mac

Home movies are great ways to preserve memories, and *iMovie '09* is the perfect tool to make this as fun, quick and painless as possible. Sometimes, however, you might feel that a little explanation would help friends and family who weren't there understand the situation better.

This is where the Voiceover tool comes in. We explored that feature in detail for *iMovie '08* (*MacFormat* issue 198) and nothing has been altered since then. Essentially, you click on the microphone button in the toolbar, use the built-in microphone if your Mac comes with one, or connect a higher quality one to your computer and click on a clip to start recording.

> *"Using your voice to narrate over a clip is one thing, but filming yourself would be great"*

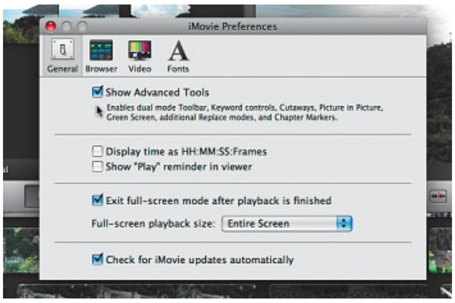
Using just your voice to narrate over a clip is one thing, but wouldn't it be great if you could film yourself instead? If you have an iSight camera, just click on the camera button in the toolbar and then select the Capture button. With an earlier version of *iMovie*, the drawback of this feature would be that you'd have to choose to either show yourself or what you were describing. Which is why this idea was never very popular. Until now.

A solution to the problem was introduced with *iMovie '09* which has a few ways of working with multiple layers of video. One of these is cutaways, which we explored in issue 209. This time, we'll take a look at the Picture in Picture tool. As the name implies, you can use it to have two video clips on screen at the same time (with one being smaller and obscuring part of the other).

This tutorial will show you how to access this feature as it isn't available by default, as well as explore the many options available, so you can make use of it in any project you'd care to create.

Steve Paris

HOW TO / Use iMovie's Picture in Picture tool



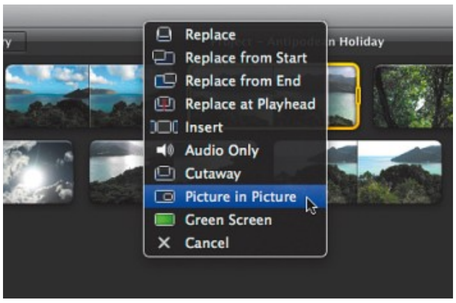
iMovie Preferences

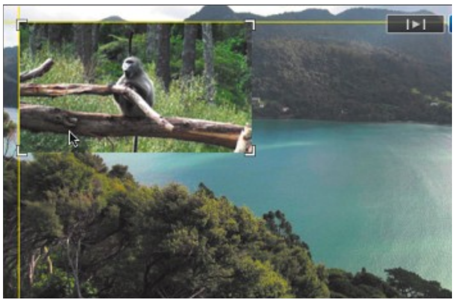
☑ Show Advanced Tools
Enables dual mode Toolbar, Keyword controls, Cutaways, Picture in Picture, Green Screen, additional Replace modes, and Chapter Markers.

☐ Display time as HH:MM:SS:Frames
☐ Show "Play" reminder in viewer

☑ Exit full-screen mode after playback is finished
Full-screen playback size: Entire Screen

☑ Check for iMovie updates automatically





01 Changing the interface

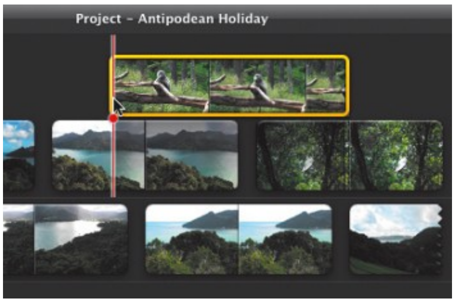
A lot of *iMovie*'s more complex features are hidden from view by default. Before you can start working with the **Picture in Picture** tool, you must first reveal them. Go to iMovie > Preferences. In the **General** tab, make sure the **Show Advanced Tools** box is ticked.

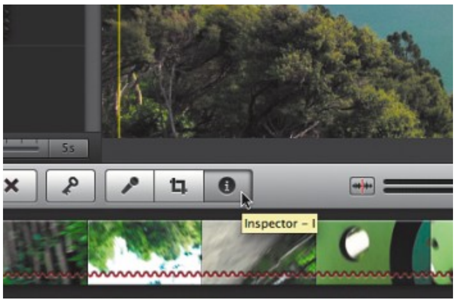
02 Picture in Picture pop-up

Choose a project you'd like to work on (or create a new one by going to File > New Project). Drag some footage from the **Event** section and release it over an already existing clip in your project. As you do, a pop-up menu appears. Click on **Picture in Picture**.

03 Moving around

That new clip now sits on top of the other one in your project. Drag the clip in the **Viewer** section to reposition it anywhere you'd like. Yellow guides will appear to prevent you from putting it too close to the edges. To resize the picture, drag one of its corner handles.



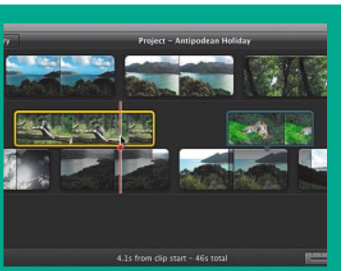


04 Duration control

To alter a clip, you either have to toggle the fine-tune button (where you can alter the duration by one second either way) or use the **Precision Editor**. Not so with the **Picture in Picture** clip: drag either end by as much as you want straight from the **Project** section.

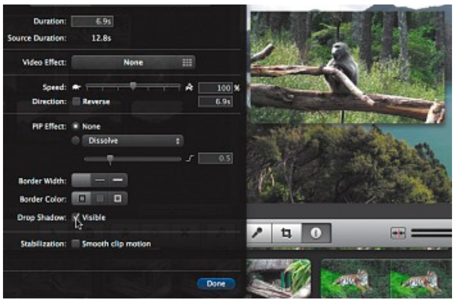
05 Access the Inspector

You can customise the look of your **Picture in Picture** clip via the **Inspector**. Access it either by double-clicking on the clip in the **Project** section, or perhaps more simply by double-clicking on the **Viewer** section when the **Picture in Picture** clip is displayed there.

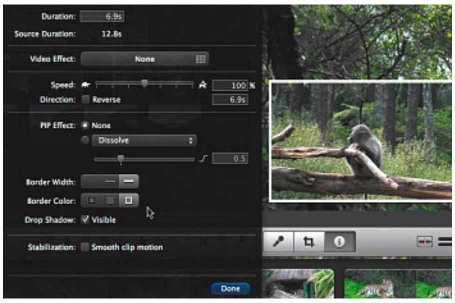

Project – Antipodean Holiday
4.1s from clip start – 46s total

QUICK TIP

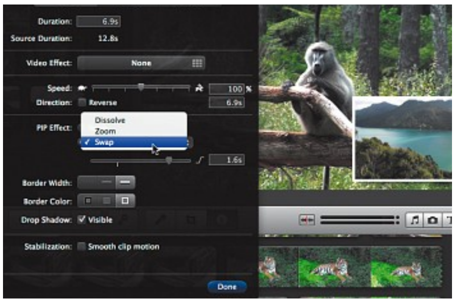
With **Picture in Picture**, you can work with two full-sized video layers. Resize the smaller clip so it fills the whole screen in the **Preview** section. You can now drag that clip around in your project without affecting the other footage.



Duration: 6.9s
Source Duration: 12.8s
Video Effect: None
Speed: 100 %
Direction: ☐ Reverse 6.9s
PIP Effect: ● None
○ Dissolve 0.5
Border Width:
Border Color:
Drop Shadow: ☑ Visible
Stabilization: ☐ Smooth clip motion
Done



Duration: 6.9s
Source Duration: 12.8s
Video Effect: None
Speed: 100 %
Direction: ☐ Reverse 6.9s
PIP Effect: ● None
○ Dissolve 0.5
Border Width:
Border Color:
Drop Shadow: ☑ Visible
Stabilization: ☐ Smooth clip motion
Done



Duration: 6.9s
Source Duration: 12.8s
Video Effect: None
Speed: 100 %
Direction: ☐ Reverse 6.9s
PIP Effect: Dissolve / Zoom / ✓ Swap 1.6s
Border Width:
Border Color:
Drop Shadow: ☑ Visible
Stabilization: ☐ Smooth clip motion
Done

06 Shadow application

The **Inspector's Clip** tab has a few new options when a **Picture in Picture** clip is selected. Starting at the bottom, you can apply a drop shadow by ticking the **Visible** box. This is a quick and simple way to help make it stand out from the larger clip behind it.

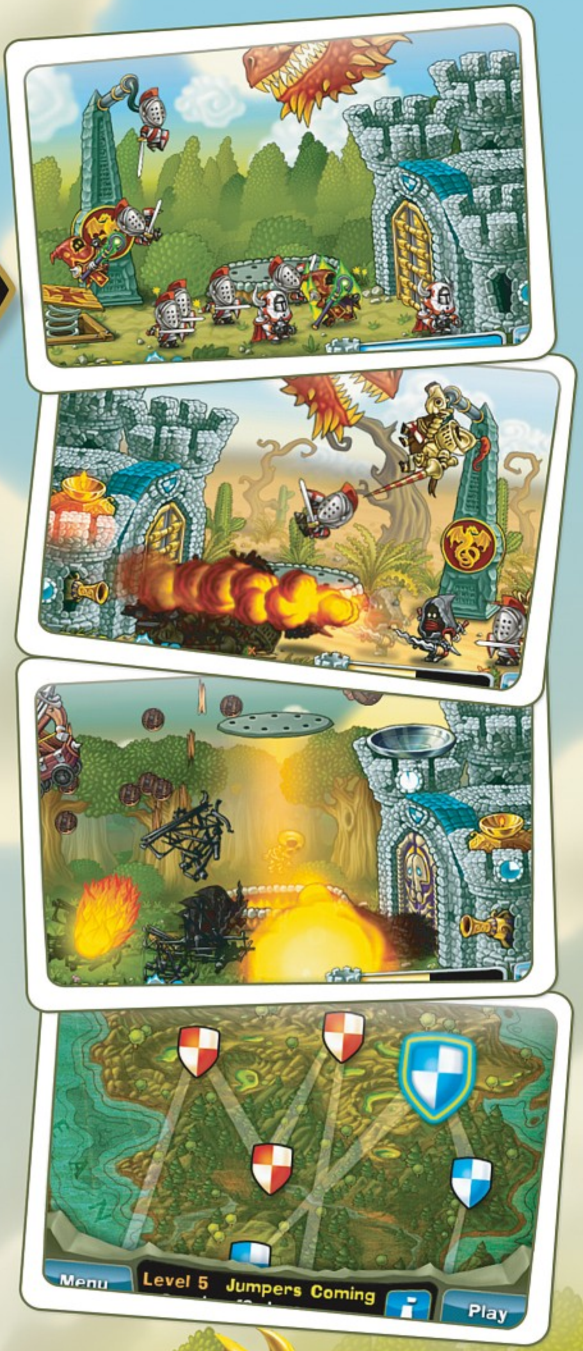
07 Border control

Next up are the **Border Width** and **Border Colour** buttons. Aside from no border at all, you only have a choice of a thin or thick one, and a total of three colours: black, grey or white. Although this is quite limiting, it could be useful for certain projects.

08 Transitions

Of more interest is the **PiP Effect** section. You have a choice of three transitions to bring in the **Picture in Picture** clip more smoothly. Try each one out. **Swap** is quite different from the other two. The slider underneath controls the transition's duration. ●

Knights Onrush



Knights are now officially Onrush!

They usually come before dawn and attack your home castle. They break through defense and attack every single man, pillaging, destroying everything.

Not this time! Let's show them what we've got! Flick them into the air, crash them into ground, blow them up, freeze them, boil them, sacrifice them, anything.

Features:

- Epic campaign with 12 castles to defend
- 11 enemy types, including Wizards, Catapults, Bombers, Assassins, each with unique abilities
- Build defensive structures like Boulder Thrower, Fireball, Squasher, Freezer, and Flamethrower
- Endless siege and Madness modes.
- Different landscapes (Forest, Plains, Desert)
- Automatic save/load
- Separate scores in campaign
- Online highscores and chat

MOREGAMES Entertainment

PUBLISHED BY chillingo

Requirements:
Compatible with iPhone and iPod touch.
Requires iPhone 2.2 Software Update or later.

Available now !

Give your tapes and cassettes a new lease of life using your Mac.

>> ON THE DISC Find some apps here on the disc.

Import analogue media

Convert your vinyl and videotapes into digital format to keep for ever

Unless you were born after 2000 – in which case, why aren't you watching *Hannah Montana* like every other nine-year-old? – there's a chance that a lot of your music, movies and photos are trapped on old analogue formats. And while nobody at *MacFormat* would argue that these tactile media – tapes, vinyl, VHS, photographic prints and more – don't have charm, we children of the computer age know that once media is converted to bits and bytes, it gets a new lease of life.

Music, once digitised and fed into *iTunes*, can be added to playlists, synced to iPods and used as soundtracks to home movies. Movies liberated from bulky old videotapes can be emailed to family, edited into sharp new films, or shared on YouTube. And photos can be shared, tagged and remixed in new ways.

What's more, once you've got all your old stuff onto your Mac, you can use today's powerful, intuitive software to polish it all up, removing crackles and pops from vinyl, boosting colours in faded old movies, and removing creases and damp spots from photographs.

A quick legal disclaimer: we're going to assume that you either own the copyright to, or have permission from the copyright-holder to copy the media you're about to transfer to your Mac. While there are no measures in place specifically designed to prohibit copyright with old media – the circumventing of which is illegal under the EU Copyright Directive or, in the US, the Digital Millennium Copyright Act – regular copyright law applies. Unless your use is covered by the allowed exemptions, or the copyright has lapsed, even format-shifting in this way is legally dubious at best, no matter how remote the chances of anyone actually prosecuting are.

> *"We children of the computer age know that once media is converted, it gets a new lease of life"*

Starting out

First, the bad news: you may need to buy some new kit. In all likelihood, your Mac will be just fine if made in the last decade, but depending on what it is you want to convert, it's possible that you'll at least have to invest a few quid in some software.

Let's start with music. CDs, obviously, can be imported directly

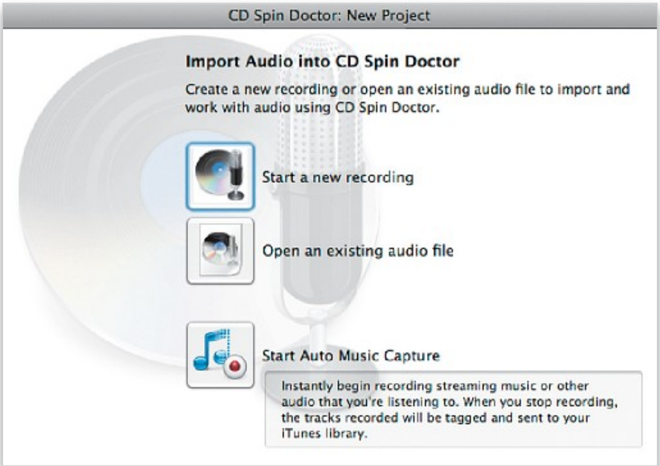
>> QUICK TIP

Once you've imported audio from LPs or cassettes, it's easy to add text metadata - album name, artist and more - but it's trickier to add album artwork. You can drop images onto the **Artwork** field in the **Get Info** window in *iTunes*, or use *CoverScout* (€30 (£21), **www.equinux.com**) to do it automatically.

QUICK TIP

When playing records, you can get an annoying hum from the power connection. While it is possible to clean some of this with software, you should ground the turntable first; Griffin iMic has a grounding connector.

As well as importing from inputs, Roxio's CD Spin Doctor can capture audio playing through your Mac.



CD Spin Doctor: New Project

Import Audio into CD Spin Doctor

Create a new recording or open an existing audio file to import and work with audio using CD Spin Doctor.

Start a new recording

Open an existing audio file

Start Auto Music Capture

Instantly begin recording streaming music or other audio that you're listening to. When you stop recording, the tracks recorded will be tagged and sent to your iTunes library.

into *iTunes*, so we're not going to deal with them here. Broadly speaking, the process of importing cassettes and records – even wax cylinders or any other exotic format – is the same: you put the cassette, record or whatever into a player, then run a cable from the player to your Mac. Software on the Mac captures the audio as one big file, and you can then define individual tracks – either manually or with help from the software – then add the metadata information that tells the computer the correct album, artist, track names and more.

If you don't have a record player, this £100 ION USB Turntable's a decent option.

In practice, there's often a little more to it than that. One of the main problems is that the audio input port on a Mac is line-level. In this context, that's usually fine; you can think of line-level as being the volume of the sound – commonly -10 dBV – that's passed from your stereo to your Mac, and most hi-fis use line-level to send sound from component to component anyway. There are two main scenarios where it can get confusing. If you plug in a regular PC microphone, its input will be so quiet – often -60 dBV – that you won't be able to hear anything from it.

More relevant to this tutorial on importing analogue media, however, is that the output from turntables can be at similar levels, and needs to be amplified before the Mac can do anything with it. You've got three options: plug the turntable into an amp or pre-amp, and take the signal from there; buy a record player designed for helping you import vinyl – we'll be using the £100 ION USB Turntable from **www.iwoot.com**, but there are alternatives; or buy a little analogue-to-USB adapter such as the Griffin iMic and plug an existing turntable into that. The latter option gives you the best flexibility – you can use a high-quality turntable on its own, and rely on the RIAA filter in the excellent, bundled *Final Vinyl* software to equalise your records properly during import – but if you just have a stack of LPs and no turntable, all-in-one solutions such as the ION USB Turntable works well.

> *"If you have a more expensive DV camera, it may offer analogue to digital conversion"*

Cleaning up

You can clean up old, dirty recordings using applications such as Bias *SoundSoap* (£106, **www.bias-inc.com**) or Adobe *Soundbooth* (£160, **www.adobe.com/uk**), but we still like the completeness of *CD Spin Doctor*. Available standalone (£30, **www.roxio.co.uk**) or as part of the Roxio *Toast* bundle for £80, it can clean up audio, split tracks and add metadata. (It can be a little hit and miss with automatically-added metadata, though; *SongGenie* (on the disc) may do better, taking an audio fingerprint of each track before querying online services.)

Copying old videos to your Mac also needs dedicated hardware. (Transferring cine film is beyond the scope of most home users; many companies offer transfer to DVD or other movie format.) If you have a DV camera you may find that it offers analogue to digital conversion, particularly if it's not a cheap, entry-

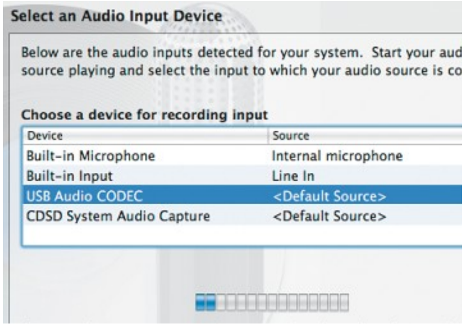
HOW TO / Pick the right format

When picking what format to save your files in, you have to balance disk space, compatibility and future-proofing. If you have the space, save a lossless original and a lossy, convenient copy. You do this because the high-quality lossless original will be your archive copy, but these are often not as compatible or as useful as other formats. With pictures a TIFF is good, but you can save a high-quality JPEG version next to it to add to *iPhoto*, say. Though JPEG isn't perfect, it's widely understood by many apps. As an added bonus, its popularity means that it's unlikely that future versions of software and computing platforms won't be able to read these files. (You might think this is an unlikely scenario, but computing changes quickly; following consultation, Adobe has decided to keep reading but no longer writing PICT files.)

When it comes to music, you have two options for the archive copy. AIFF is a true lossless format, and that's what audio pros would use. If space was tight, you could opt for Apple Lossless which takes up half the space but with no loss in quality; it's less ubiquitous, though, so AIFF is safer. MP3 is also useful.

Because movie files are so large, you might be better just opting for a compressed copy. Though processor-intensive, H.264 is highly efficient and, because Apple's so heavily behind the format and it's part of the Blu-ray specification, you should be safe at least for a decade.

HOW TO / Digitise your records with CD Spin Doctor



Select an Audio Input Device

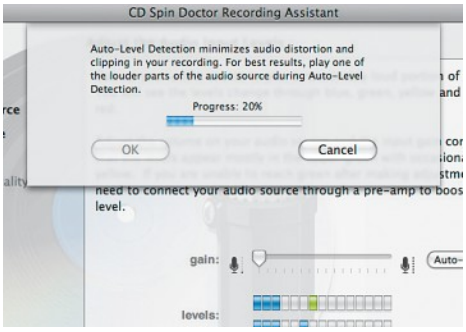
Below are the audio inputs detected for your system. Start your aud
source playing and select the input to which your audio source is co

Choose a device for recording input

Device	Source
Built-in Microphone	Internal microphone
Built-in Input	Line In
USB Audio CODEC	<Default Source>
CDSD System Audio Capture	<Default Source>

01 Setting up

We're using the ION USB Turntable and *CD Spin Doctor*, so we've connected it up to the power and run the USB cable from it to the Mac. When you launch *CD Spin Doctor*, it will ask you what input source to use. We'll use USB audio.



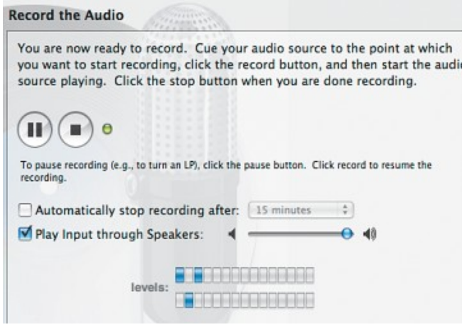
CD Spin Doctor Recording Assistant

Auto-Level Detection minimizes audio distortion and clipping in your recording. For best results, play one of the louder parts of the audio source during Auto-Level Detection.

Progress: 20%

02 Set the recording levels

Our turntable has a gain control of its own; we've set it to maximum and we can adjust the gain control in the software to get a good levels readout. Alternatively, play a loud section and use the **Auto-Level Detection** feature.



Record the Audio

You are now ready to record. Cue your audio source to the point at which you want to start recording, click the record button, and then start the audi
source playing. Click the stop button when you are done recording.

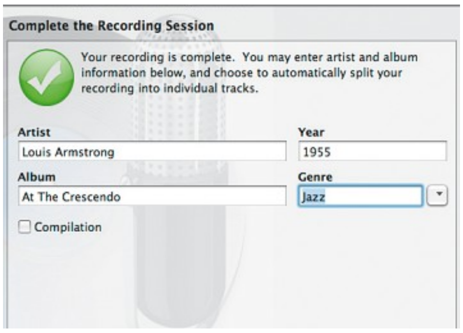
To pause recording (e.g., to turn an LP), click the pause button. Click record to resume the recording.

☐ Automatically stop recording after: 15 minutes

☑ Play Input through Speakers:

03 Quality and levels check

Once you've decided on the quality – CD quality is fine for music – do a final levels check then click the **Record** button. You can pause the recording to flip an LP or cassette, and optionally have the recording end after a certain time.



Complete the Recording Session

Your recording is complete. You may enter artist and album information below, and choose to automatically split your recording into individual tracks.

Artist: Louis Armstrong

Year: 1955

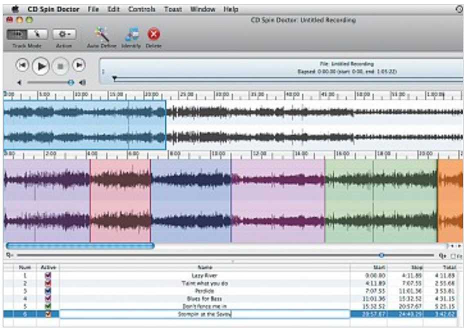
Album: At The Crescendo

Genre: Jazz

☐ Compilation

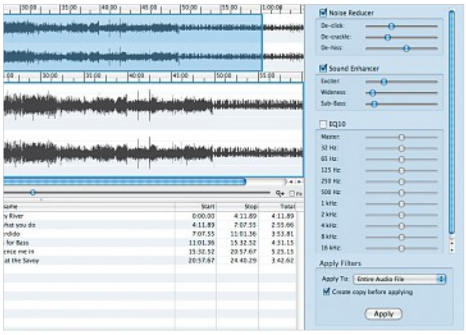
04 Track information

Once the recording is done, you're prompted to enter track information. Even if you're only importing tapes of your baby's first words, tagging will help you find and sort them once they're exported to *iTunes* or shared online.



05 Define individual tracks

Now define the individual tracks and tag them. If there's a small silence between tracks, *CD Spin Doctor*'s **Auto Define** tool can help, otherwise select them manually. It will try to get track names automatically; if not, do it by hand.



06 Audio clean up

The last, optional, step before you send the tracks to *iTunes* (or *Toast*) is to clean up the audio. Depending on how picky you are, this may take time as you fiddle with the noise reduction, sound enhancer and 10-band EQ sliders. ●

level model. If it does, you may be able simply to plug your VCR into your Mac via the DV camera and import footage that way. (Some let you use the DV camera as a straight bridge, while others will make you record the output of the VCR to a tape in the DV camera, and then import that tape into the Mac using *iMovie*, say.)

Alternatively, you can buy a dedicated video converter. Elgato and Roxio recently launched products into this market – the Video Capture and Easy VHS to DVD respectively – and they do a sterling job. (We awarded Elgato's Video Capture four and half stars last issue.) Both rely on your Mac's processor to digitise the video, so you're going to need a pretty up-to-date model.

Hardware encoding solutions – external boxes that do the grunt work for you and pass a clean digital signal to the Mac – are more expensive. They have a little computer inside them in their own right, after all, but do let older, less powerful computers import video. Elgato's Video Capture requires an Intel Core Duo, for example, while its combined hardware converter/TV tuner, the EyeTV 250 Plus, will work with a G4 for standard-definition video.

> *"When it comes to digitising pictures, we're in territory that will be familiar to many: scanning"*

Working with video

There are more professional hardware converters available – the Canopus line, now part of Grass Valley, has always been popular, for example – but the cheaper, more consumer-focused video converters do a fine job, and they're easier to use, to boot.

It's a little harder to clean up video once its imported if you're talking about removing scratches and spots –

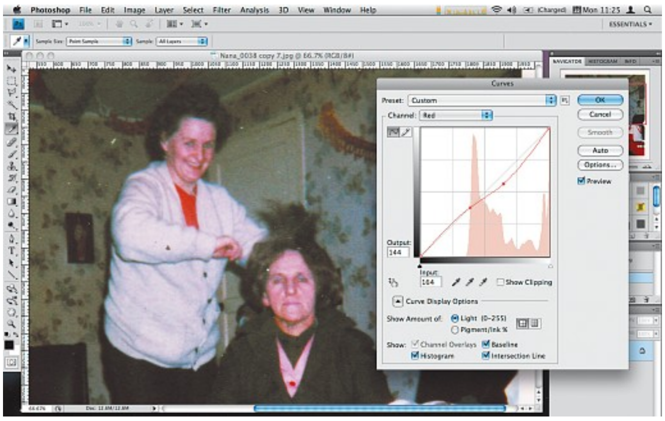
QUICK TIP

Files can be compressed in several ways. Some are lossy, some lossless. Lossy compression algorithms (like JPEG) work by discarding info it thinks you won't notice, and lossless, while less efficient, don't ditch anything.

QUICK TIP

You can upload video to YouTube or Vimeo, but what if you want to burn imports to DVD? You could use *iDVD*, or for a simple way to burn unadorned files, Roxio *Toast Titanium*'s great; the Pro version can even burn Blu-ray.

While iPhoto can do simple photo editing, Photoshop gives you much more control.



Nana_0058 copy 7.jpg @ 66.7% (RGB/8#)

Preset: Custom

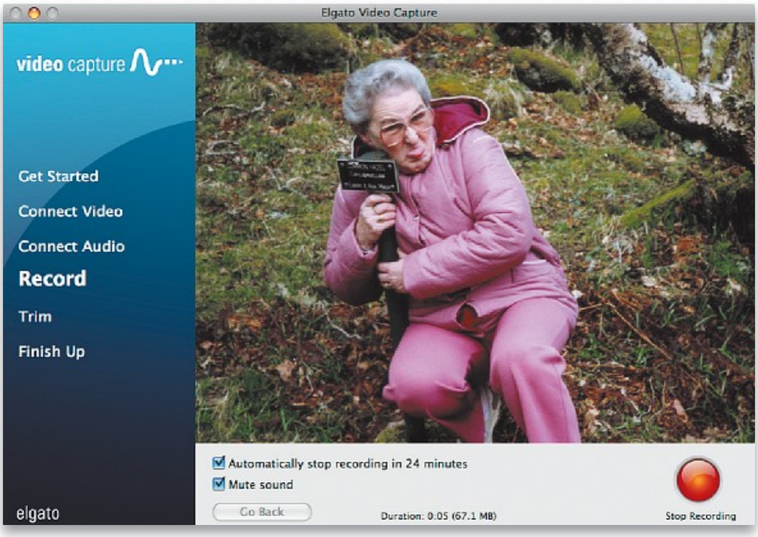
Channel: Red

Output: 144

Input: 184

frankly, nobody yet has made software that makes this kind of movie editing 'Apple-simple' – but you can, at least, use later versions of *iMovie* to punch up the saturation and contrast of dull old VHS recordings.

When you're connecting up your VCR, most capture boxes offer you the choice of Composite connection – a yellow plug, possibly converted through a SCART plug – or S-Video; if you have S-Video output on your VCR, pick that, as it'll give you better quality.



Products such as Elgato's Video Capture can help you import old VHS tapes into your Mac.

☑ Automatically stop recording in 24 minutes

☑ Mute sound

Duration: 0:05 (67.1 MB)

New formats for photos

When it comes to digitising pictures, we're in territory that will be familiar to many: scanning. The good news here is that you're likely to have a scanner already, so you may not have to buy anything new. Even better: if you don't have a scanner, the technologies are so mature that you can spend very little to get a good model capable of decent results. Indeed, if you don't have a scanner, we'd recommend an all-in-one device that includes a printer; unless you plump for a bargain-basement model, you'll get a scanner that's good, and its ability to photocopy as well as print and scan is super-convenient.

Scanning in photographic prints is easy. Most scanner driver software will ship with presets for scanning photos, and you can, if you like, just use them. Scanning in negatives and slides is a little trickier, and because the originals you're working from are so small, the scanner you're using has to have a high optical resolution so that it captures sufficient data to let you blow the pictures up to a usable size. Some slightly pricier flatbed scanner come with transparency adapters, but if you have more than just a handful of none-too-important slides or negatives, you'd do well to buy a dedicated transparency scanner. These little boxes typically scan at much higher resolutions than their flatbed counterparts, and some include in-hardware scratch and dust reduction. We've put together a few more hints and tips in the 'How to scan and correct photographs' box, below left.

> *"With good backup regimes in place, digital files are saved for ever from the ravages of time"*

Be patient

The biggest investment you'll make, however, no matter what media you're digitising, is time. Photos have to be scanned laboriously by hand, and because it has to be done in real time, even simply importing videos and music can take hours, never mind the time taken to correct, crop, trim, label, sort and otherwise prepare it for its new digital form.

It'll be worth it, though. Family videos can be shared in an instant, precious photographic prints can be saved from fading away to nothingness, and rare recordings can be saved from obscurity and taken with you to brighten your morning commute. With sensible backup regimes in place, digital files are not only liberated from their physical prisons, but saved for ever from the ravages of time or from fire or flood.

Christopher Phin

HOW TO / Scan and correct photographs

Whether you're working from prints, negatives or slides, the process of importing photos and correcting them is much the same. While you'll get more control – and finer editing with damaged originals – with Adobe *Photoshop* or *Elements*, you can do a surprising amount with *iPhoto*.

The **Retouch** control is crude – it'll take out the odd spot and blemish, but you'd struggle to remove creases in a print without making a mess. The **Adjust** palette does a good job of removing colour casts (use the **Temperature** and **Tint** sliders) and boosting colours. And once you've imported and edited your shots, you can build photo books in *iPhoto*.

Old photos' dull colours can be easily revived in iPhoto or Photoshop.

Photoshop's **Clone** and **Heal** tools can work wonders on dirty or damaged prints and negatives. If you've never used them before, read the manual and practise on a copy of one of your files first. *Photoshop* also gives you finer-grained control over colours and lets you apply local or global edits non-destructively with clever use of Adjustment Layers and Layer Masks. *iPhoto* happily imports PSDs too, so you can keep your edited files 'live' alongside originals and flattened exports.

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Improve your iSight footage

Get a better view from your Mac's iSight camera with a little help

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY
Intermediate

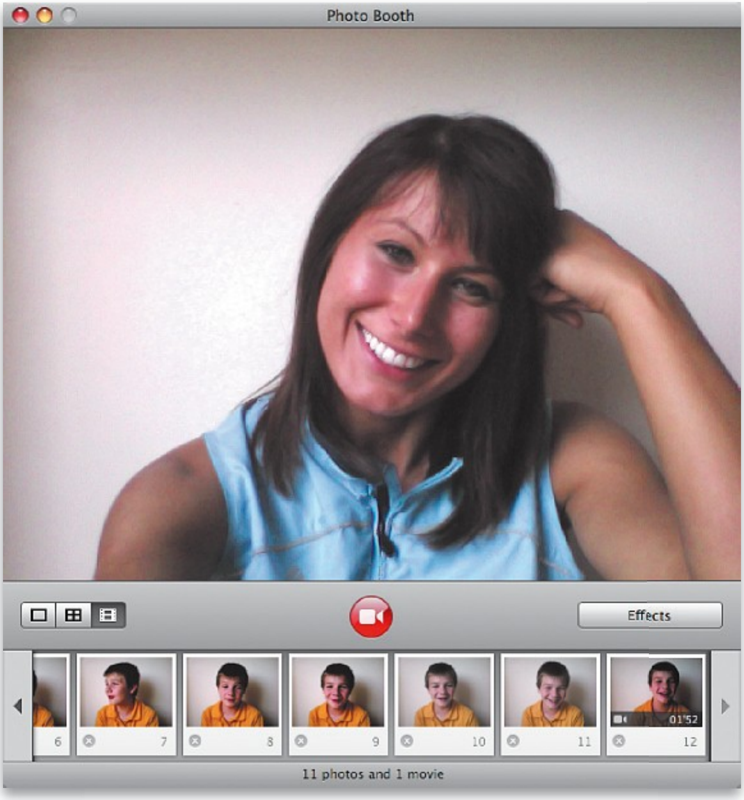
TIME NEEDED
15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED
Mac or monitor with an iSight camera, iGlasses ($10 (£6), **www.ecamm.com**)

>> ON THE DISC
You can find *iGlasses* trial on your disc.

As useful as the iSight webcam is, it's not of HD video quality or a rival to a 12-megapixel still camera. It's designed to primarily be a webcam that's ready to roll when needed. It has a plastic lens that's fixed-focus and is connected to a CMOS sensor giving you 640x480 images that come out to a whopping 0.3 megapixels. Still, it does an admirable to great job when compared to most other attachable webcams.

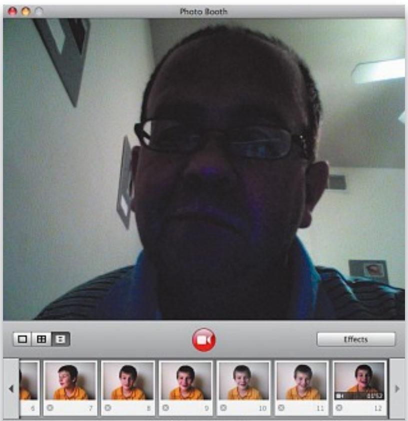
Even with these specs, the quality of iSight varies with Mac models. The MacBook uses a 640x480 sensor, while the MacBook Pro has a 1,280x1,024, 1.3-megapixel sensor. However, for most video the MacBook Pro sensor gives you 640x480 images. The camera in the MacBook Air is even tinier (to fit in that thin lid), which does affect its performance. Aside from Apple laptops, iSight cameras are also built into the iMac and Cinema Display.



Ideal lighting for any webcam is bright and even on both the face and the background.

Bad lighting, bad images

With any iSight, performance can be improved. If you're getting lacklustre images when it's used as a webcam for *iChat* or for stills in *Photo Booth*, the most common issue is bad lighting. The webcam itself can't fix this. The best thing to do is re-position your computer or add some light, which both have a huge impact on improving images, movies and web feeds. Two notes of caution: light bulbs that are visible in the frame will often darken exposure; and harsh, direct sunlight is generally not flattering to the face and makes you squint.



This is the worst-case scenario: you in silhouette with a dim blue face. It is easily corrected though.

If you have experimented with multiple applications that use an iSight, you will have noticed that your results can vary greatly. The worst variable issue is frame rate. This often depends on the app you're using and what system resources are available, like usable RAM. For instance, *iMovie* may always record at 30 frames per second while *Photo Booth* videos vary from about 15fps to 8fps – even less if you're adding an effect. Even using *QuickTime Pro*, which allows you to record in Native mode (the highest quality your Mac can produce for both video and audio) sometimes gives you jittery video if there aren't enough system resources available. Experiment to find what app and settings give you consistently the best quality video.

> *"iGlasses seamlessly adds brightness, contrast, colour and saturation controls that are missing from your iSight camera"*

Interestingly, Apple chose not to offer any video controls to modify the iSight output. Everything is automatic. Generally the camera does a good job, but in certain instances it's nice to be able to tweak the video a bit – especially if you're using the MacBook Air's iSight.

A unique utility called *iGlasses* offers some useful controls for your iSight, including brightness, contrast, colour, saturation and sharpness. These allow you complete correction over iSight images. You can create multiple custom settings for specific lighting situations or apps. *iGlasses* seamlessly adds the controls that are missing from your iSight camera.

HOW TO / Get better iSight results

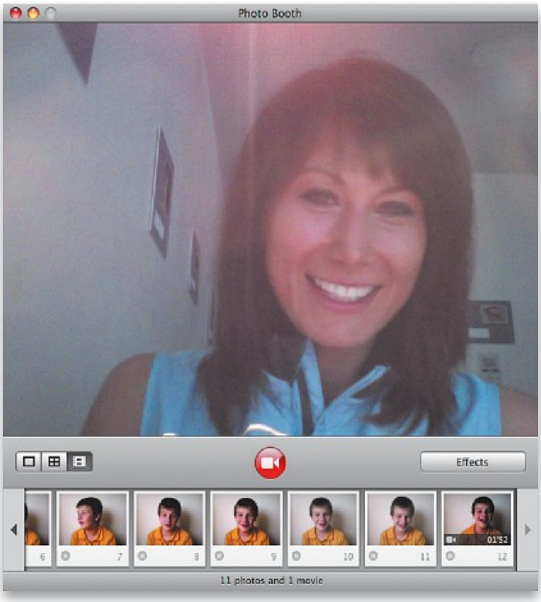
01 Adjust the lighting

If you're sat at a desk using your iSight, you will possibly be facing a wall with the main light above and behind you. This makes you look like a silhouette. And what's worse is that the darkness of your face is typically illuminated by an eerie light which comes from your Mac's screen. To improve this, the iSight camera should be between you and the main light source. You need the light to be coming from behind the screen, so either re-position yourself or get a desk lamp. Another option is to move your computer in front of a window if it's daytime; you'll be lit by a natural light that's typically more flattering.

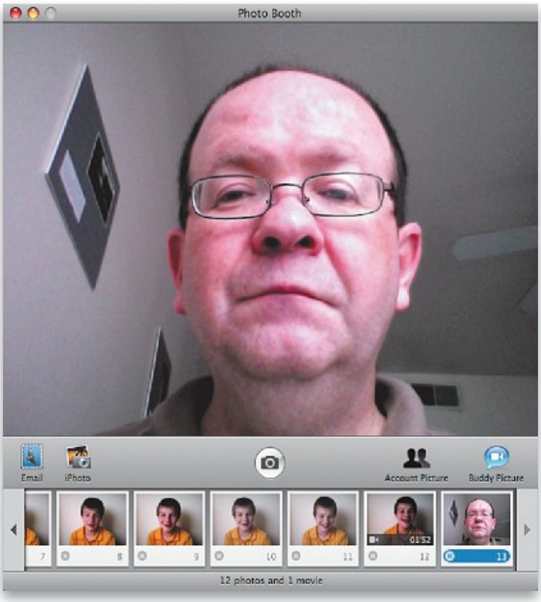
The digital noise you see in your iSight is often the result of a weak and inaccurate signal from the sensors in the camera. It typically shows as a gritty texture in underlit areas, having visible specs of yellow and blue in them. This ailment looks a lot like film grain and happens when there's not enough light to accurately reproduce colours and tones. The easy cure is to add more light. If you can, move your Mac. You can also turn on all the lights in a room. It's not something we typically think about, but when we use desk lamps we usually light the keyboard and avoid light on our faces. With all the room lights on, there is typically more light on your face.

02 Brightening the background

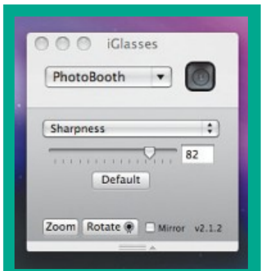
iSight cameras use a simple exposure technology that's designed to work in even lighting. So in lighting extremes, like silhouettes, you get both overexposed and underexposed areas in the same image. The same holds true for when your face is showered in light and the background is dim. You can look like a ghost while the background is a murky grey, which is why a desk lamp alone will overexpose your face. You need to even out room lighting so that your face is a little lighter than the background. Opening all curtains or blinds in daylight is a big help. Also try turning on a room light to brighten the background in addition to the light on your face. Putting as much light into a room as possible cures most problems.



Lens flare is the result of a light shining directly into your lens. Move the light or your computer to avoid this.



The upward angle is one of the least flattering for the face. Raising the height of your iSight or lowering your chair will fix it.



QUICK TIP

Notice how any lettering in your *Photo Booth* movies is backwards? *iGlasses* has a provision to turn images and video around to make it normal. Just check the **Mirror** box.

03 Raise your expectations

Does your iSight camera not capture you at your best angle? If you're using a Mac laptop, the camera is usually placed a little low for a flattering look. It makes you look like a movie villain. When the camera is placed low, it shows nostrils in full glory, makes chins look twice their size, makes the top of your head cone-shaped, and shows off the cobwebs you missed on the ceiling. You really want your iSight to be at eye level. Raising your laptop up 10cm with a stand or big book can bring you eye-to-eye with your iSight and make your face look more 'normal'. If your chair is adjustable, lowering it can do the same thing.

04 Get some iGlasses

If your footage still needs some help, *iGlasses* (www.ecamm.com) gives you the ability to tweak the controls. This utility pops up on your Desktop any time your iSight camera is activated. It allows you to modify settings on-the-fly, or to create presets for different lighting or apps that use the iSight. The presets come in handy if you use it on a laptop that's both for home and work. After installing *iGlasses*, it will appear whenever an app is iSight compatible. If you exit the iGlasses window, it's easy to bring it back up. The File menu of any enabled app will have an *iGlasses* setting at the bottom which revives the window. The utility can exempt any of about 80 applications that use iSight. So if you want it always on for *Photo Booth* but never for *Skype*, you can set this is the *iGlasses Manager* app, which resides in the iGlasses folder in your main Applications folder.

J. Kevin Wolfe

Get more from Quick Look

Get the most from Leopard's under-appreciated super-charged preview engine

>> ON THE DISC
Find some apps here on the disc.

Apple used the memorable catchphrase 'Look before you launch' when unleashing **Quick Look** on the public back in 2007, wryly adding that 'opening files is so 2006'. Unfortunately, Leopard's built-in 'super preview' went somewhat unnoticed as automated backup application *Time Machine* became an instant media darling. This is actually a real shame because if there's anything that makes Leopard worth the outlay, it's **Quick Look**.

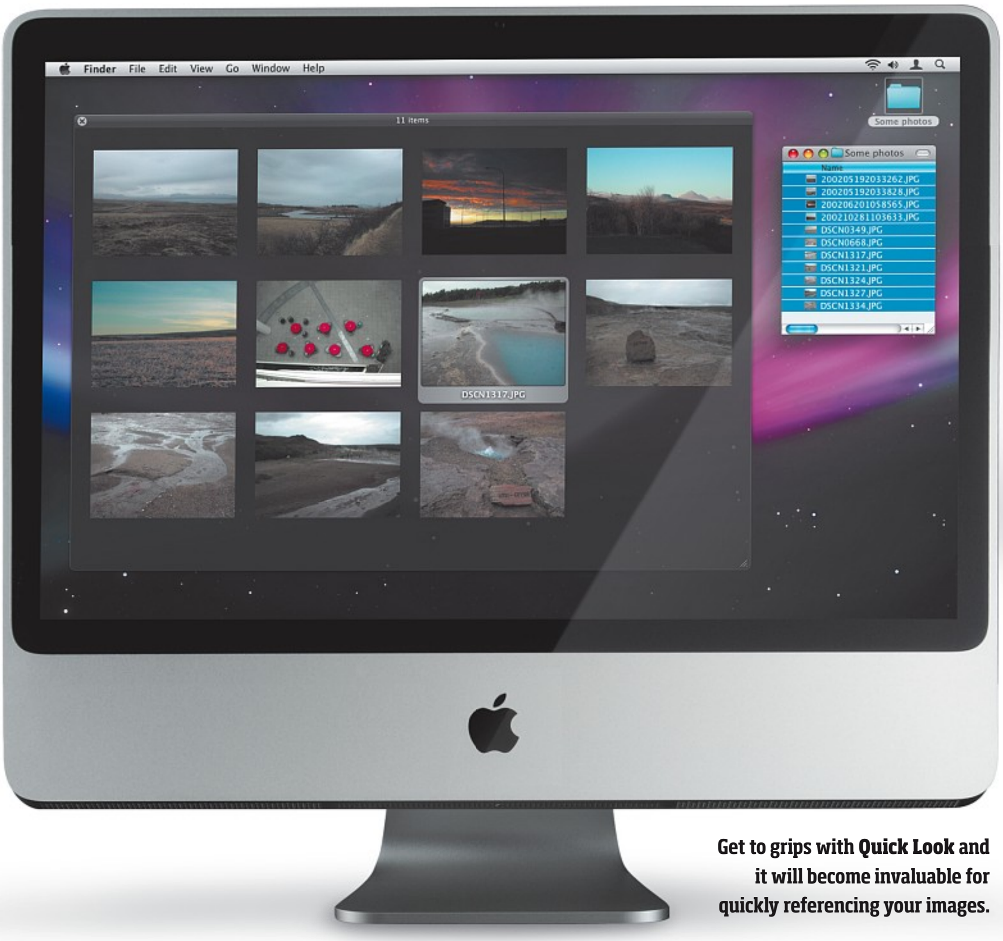
Even now, nearly two years after Leopard's debut in stores, we hear about Mac users of all levels accidentally stumbling across **Quick Look** after nudging the [Spacebar] while selecting something in *Finder*, and then looking rather pleased when a handy preview window appears.

This tutorial gives you a thorough understanding of how **Quick Look** works and the ways in which it can enhance your Mac experience and make you more productive.

Shortcuts to success

As already touched on, the default means of triggering **Quick Look** is by using the [Spacebar] in *Finder*. Select any item in any *Finder* view, hit [Spacebar] and **Quick Look** is activated, providing a preview of your item in an HUD-style window. It's also possible to activate this window by using the keyboard shortcut ⌘+Y, clicking the **Quick Look** icon in *Finder*'s toolbar (assuming it's visible – if not, ctrl-click the *Finder* toolbar, select **Customize Toolbar** and drag the relevant button into place), or by taking a quick trip via the menu bar to File > Quick Look.

> *"Quick Look enables you to see a full document, without having to open its creator application"*



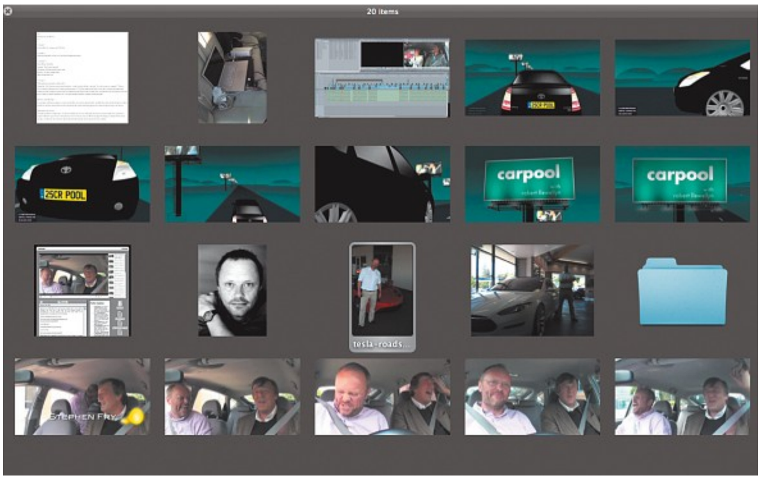
Get to grips with Quick Look and it will become invaluable for quickly referencing your images.

Clearly, [Spacebar] is the best and quickest way to get **Quick Look** going, but then we did say we'd be thorough! Keyboard controls also provide the best means of closing a preview: both [Spacebar] and esc do so, although you can also click the close button on the top-left corner of the window, just like with any other Mac window.

At the very least, a **Quick Look** preview should provide you with a basic overview of your selected item, showing its icon, name, file type, size and most recent modification date. For a large range of formats, though, **Quick Look** goes a lot further, enabling you to see a document in its entirety, without having to open its creator application. In other words, if you only want to look at a document rather than do anything advanced with it (such as editing), **Quick Look** is often the best means of doing so on the Mac. Rather than waiting for *Word* to open, select a DOC file in *Finder*, hit [Spacebar] and start reading its content. And the same goes for a slew of other file formats – *Photoshop* documents, movie and audio files, JPEGs and more. After using it for only a short while, **Quick Look** will soon be burned into your muscle memory, and you'll save time by being able to see file content immediately rather than waiting ages for weighty apps to make an appearance.

Multiple files

Previewing single files from your hard drive is all very well, but something that's become big with Mac users in recent years is the ability to easily navigate thumbnail previews of



Using Index View, Quick Look enables you to preview multiple files at the same time.

hundreds of media files in a quickfire fashion. The *iTunes* album view enables you to do this for all your music, while *iPhoto* provides a great means of reviewing your photos (and events), choosing when to enlarge one of them to full size. *Finder*, though, becomes somewhat unwieldy if you try to do the rough equivalent by changing your windows to work in Icon view with icons maximised for larger previews. Therefore, outside of an application dedicated to previews, Quick View is again your best bet for getting a rapid overview of a number of files simultaneously. In fact, since Quick Look happily enables you to preview multiple files of varying types – mixing and matching as you see fit – one might even argue that it betters most standalone applications.

Preview multiple files

To get started previewing multiple files, you first select them in *Finder*. To do this, drag a selection around them, click and then ⇧-click in list view to get a continuous selection, or use ⌘-click to toggle the selection status of individual files. Then open a Quick Look window using your favourite method and invoke the Index Sheet, which is achieved by clicking the Index Sheet button (the one that looks like four rectangles in a two-by-two layout) or by using the handy keyboard shortcut ⌘+⏎. However, note that ⌘+[Enter] (the button for this can normally be found on the bottom-right of the numberpad) does not perform this action, so use ⏎ – the key above the right-hand ⌫ key – if you have an extended keyboard.

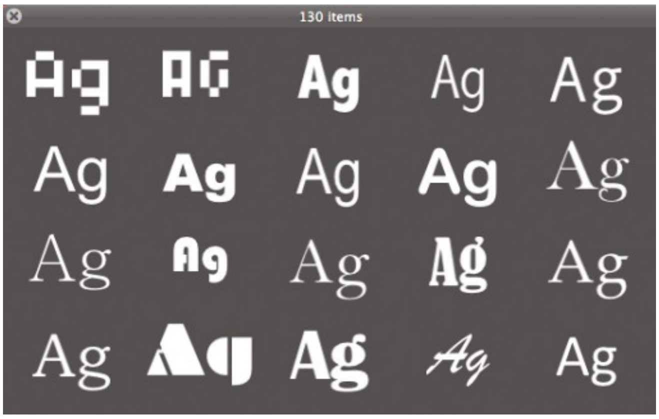
> “Index Sheet comes into its own with imagery and PDFs that you can review without iPhoto…“

The Index Sheet will show (within the Quick Look window) thumbnail previews of up to 20 of the items you selected. Should you happen to have more than 20 items selected in *Finder*, you can still preview them by clicking the two arrows at the bottom of the window to page up and down; however, it's usually much quicker to navigate Quick Look's Index Sheet by using the keyboard: use the cursor keys to move between items and [Page Up] and [Page Down] to move between pages

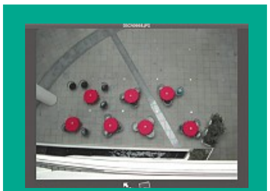
Picture perfect

Although Index Sheet view is suitable for previewing any type of file – movies, text documents and even fonts – it really comes into its own with imagery and PDFs. If you've loads of documents, scans of old magazines or just a bunch of images that you want to review but not add to *iPhoto*, bring up the Index Sheet, use the cursor keys to navigate to an image you'd like to check out and hit ⏎ to view it at full size. Once you get deft at using the cursor keys and flicking between the standard Quick View window and the Index Sheet (using ⏎/⌘+⏎), you should be able to rapidly preview dozens of items.

However, Quick Look's not done yet. Along with the immensely useful Index Sheet view, it offers additional



Quick Look will support previewing fonts, making browsing installed typefaces an absolute cinch.



»QUICK TIP

Quick Look attempts to resize its window to fit the content, but if this doesn't happen, it can be moved and resized like any other Mac OS X window. To move it, drag the window's toolbar, and to resize it, click-drag the drag handle at the window's bottom-right corner.

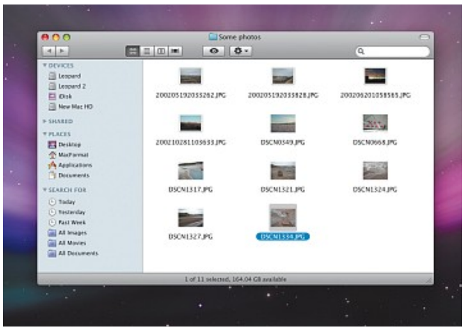
» HOW TO / Update Quick Look preview

One of the great things about the Mac is that it provides an obvious, direct path for doing something and often goes about it sneakier, and quicker. This is very true of **Quick Look** previews and slideshows. Select an item in *Finder* and preview the file in **Quick Look**. Logically speaking, you might think that to preview a different file you should close the Quick Look window, select something new in *Finder* and then open another **Quick Look** window, and that is a method that works just fine.

However, for anyone wanting a way of working that's faster, here's a handy tip: **Quick Look** updates its content to whatever you've got currently selected in *Finder*, and your selection can be updated when a **Quick Look** window is open. For example, open your **Home** folder and set it to **List** view. Select your **Documents** folder and open **Quick Look** – you'll see a preview of the folder. To preview other items in the folder, use the up and down cursor keys or click a new item – **Quick Look** will update accordingly. You can also open and close folders and use the mouse or cursor keys to move up and down a hard drive's hierarchy, previewing as you go.

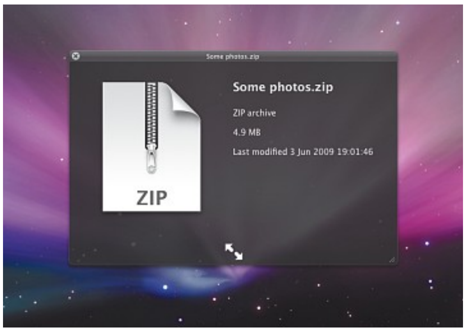
Perhaps surprisingly, this even works with slideshows. Select multiple items and press the **Play** button to start the slideshow and watch a complete loop. Now, hold ⌘ and click a few items to amend your *Finder* selection – the slideshow will keep running, but deselected items will be absent and newly selected items will be included.

HOW TO / Extend Quick Look



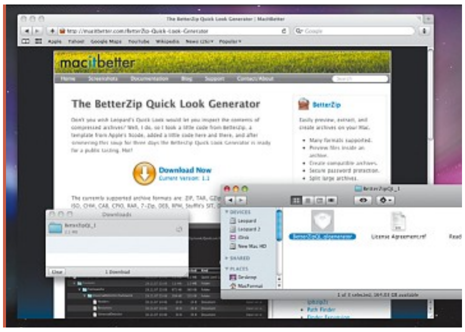
01 Create a folder

If **Quick Look** doesn't natively support a file type (such as ZIP), its preview shows an icon and basic information about the selected file. However, plug-ins can extend **Quick Look**. To start the walkthrough, create a folder in *Finder* and drag some images to it from *iPhoto*.



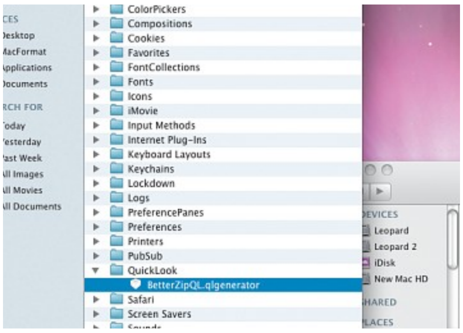
02 Preview the archive

ctrl-click the folder you just made and select **Compress** from the contextual menu. Your folder will be archived as a ZIP file. Select the newly made file and invoke **Quick Look**. You'll see the archive's name, size and modification date, but not what's inside.



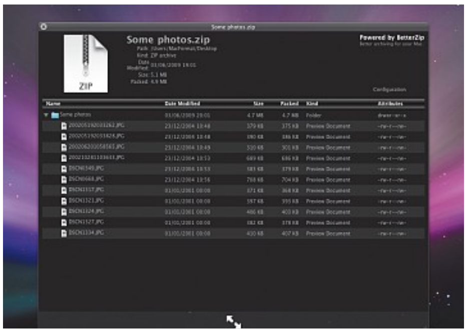
03 Download a plug-in

Go to **http://macitbetter.com/BetterZip-Quick-Look-Generator** and download the current version of *BetterZip Quick Look Generator*. Open the downloaded folder and you'll see text documents and a 'qlgenerator' file – the last of those is the *Quick Look* plug-in.



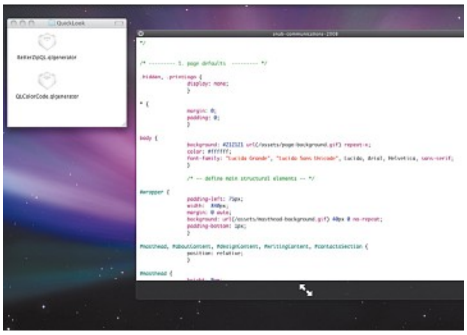
04 Create a plug-ins folder

Open the **Library** folder within your home folder and create the folder **QuickLook** (no spaces). Copy **BetterZipQL.qlgenerator** to it. This installs the plug-in – to install for all users, place the plug-in in /Library/QuickLook.



05 Try your new plug-in

Your Mac should recognise the new plug-in, without a restart. Go back to the ZIP file created in step 2 and try previewing it. Instead of the generic preview, you'll see a table, outlining all of the documents within the archive.



06 Manage your plug-ins

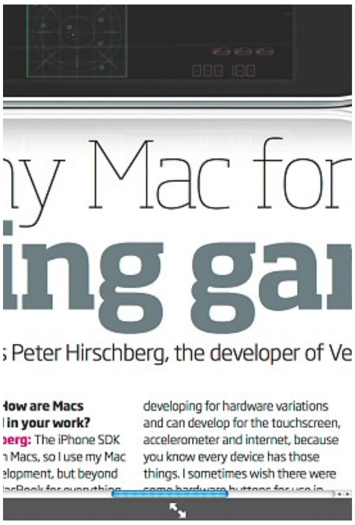
To uninstall a plug-in, remove it from the **QuickLook** folder. And to install new ones, just add them as per the steps outlined here. In the depicted grab, we've installed qlcolorcode, which provides syntax-coloured code previews. ●

QUICK TIP

You can copy your current selection of images to the clipboard, or grab a video still by dragging the playing or paused video to another app.

controls when you preview certain file types, enabling you to adjust what you see in a preview. Movies and music files can be played/paused by clicking the relevant button (or by using [Spacebar] in **Full Screen** mode); you can also mute a video by clicking the speaker, and drag the playhead to access different parts of a song or video, thereby making *QuickTime Player* pretty much redundant for one-off viewings.

If you're previewing a multi-page PDF, you can use the scrollbar to move through the document.



PDFs and images can be zoomed, enabling you to preview them at fine detail.

Alternatively, [Page Up]/[Page Down] (and also [Spacebar] and ⇧+[Spacebar] in **Full Screen** mode) enables you to move from page to page; furthermore, you can zoom in and out via ⌘+＋ and ⌘+－. With images, you get the chance to add the current image to *iPhoto* by clicking the **Add to iPhoto** button, and you can ⌥-click to zoom in and ⇧+⌥-click to zoom out. When an image is zoomed in and no keys are being pressed, you can drag the image around, in a manner similar to working in *Preview* with the **Move** tool. Additionally, if your image is too large for the Quick Look window or you've zoomed into a smaller image, by pressing ⌘+⌥-click you can alternate between 'actual pixels' and 'fit in window' sizes.

Extending file support

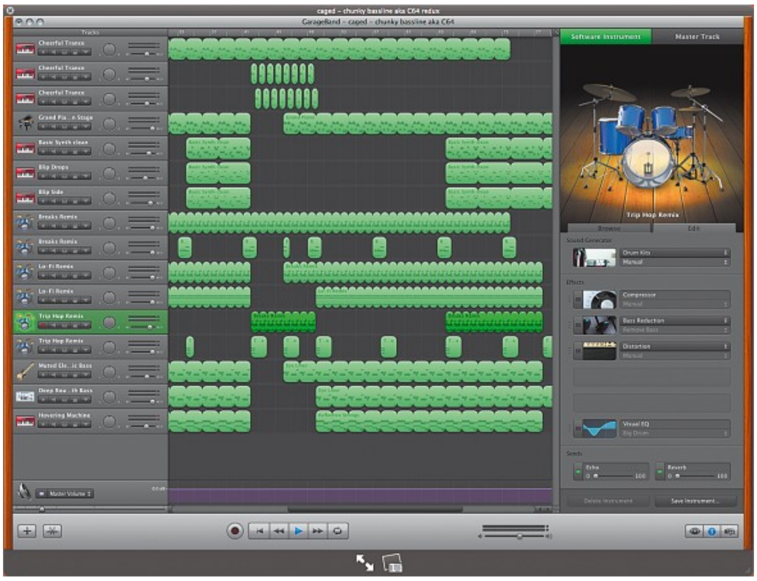
You can use Quick Look to look at all types of text documents (including output from both Microsoft *Office* and *iWork*), photos, movies, music, fonts, and more. Unfortunately, there are some things it can't handle, at which point you get the generic Quick Look preview with the icon that we mentioned earlier. Luckily, Apple foresaw this issue when working on Mac OS X 10.5 and decided to make Quick Look extensible – by downloading and installing plug-ins, you can fill many of the gaps, making Quick Look even more useful.

The process for going about installing plug-ins is covered in the walkthrough on the opposite page, and so we're going to spend the rest of our time here noting some of the best and most interesting plug-ins we've seen to date.

> *"Use Quick Look for all types of text documents, photos, movies, music, fonts, and more…"*

Designers are well catered for when it comes to Quick Look plug-ins. Our favourites are *BrushViewQL* (free, http://brushviewer.sourceforge.net/), which enables you to see the contents of *Photoshop* brush files without loading them into *Photoshop*, and Code Line Software's *SneakPeek Pro* ($20 (£12), www.code-line.com/software/sneakpeekpro.html), provides the means to preview Adobe vector-oriented files, such as output from *Illustrator* and *InDesign*. The plug-in also details fonts included in a previewed document, along with images and colours.

If you're more into coding, *qlcolorcode* (free, http://code.google.com/p/qlcolorcode/) is a must-have, providing code syntax highlighting for various code documents in the Quick Look window. *QuickLookScript* (free, www.kainjow.com/?p=77) does much the same for AppleScript.



Quick Look even supports GarageBand projects, showing a snapshot of the timeline.

There are even plug-ins that enable you to take a peek inside of your archives. The best we've found so far (and the subject of the walkthrough) is *BetterZip Quick Look Generator* (free, http://macitbetter.com/BetterZip-Quick-Look-Generator), which enables you to see the contents of ZIP files, but *Suspicious Package* (free, www.mothersruin.com/software/SuspiciousPackage) is also definitely worth a look, since it enables you to preview the contents of installer packages.

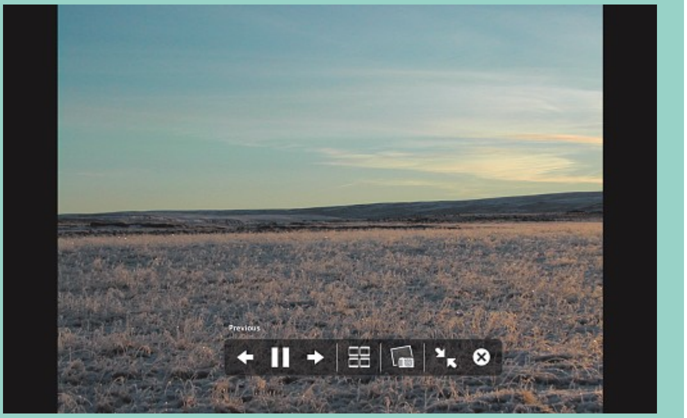
Many more plug-ins can be found at the QuickLook Plugins List (www.quicklookplugins.com) and QLPlugins (www.qlplugins.com) websites. For now, though, that's Quick Look itself thoroughly examined. Now you've no excuse for not using it and making your Mac experience better and more efficient.

Craig Grannell

HOW TO / Go full screen and display at maximum size

Quick Look's support for multi formats and its extensibility means it's a great tool for non-editing tasks involving photos, videos, text docs and HTML-based web pages.

With the standard window, you still have the distraction of other open application windows. However, if you invoke **Quick Look**'s **Full Screen** mode, your previewed file or files will display at the maximum possible size, on a black background, blocking out other visible content on your Mac. There are different ways to go full screen, the simplest being the **Full Screen** button (click it again to revert to standard window mode). If you haven't opened a **Quick Look** window, go to **Full Screen** mode by selecting an item in *Finder* and pressing ⌘+⌥+Y. Or hold ⌥ and click Finder's **Quick Look** icon (if it's not visible, ctrl-click on the toolbar, select **Customize Toolbar**, and drag the icon into place). When doing this, you'll notice the button turns into a **Slideshow** icon and that's what **Quick Look**'s full-screen mode really is – a slideshow. Invoke **Quick Look** after selecting multiple items in *Finder* and they'll play as a slideshow. To toggle play/pause, hit [Spacebar].



Quick Look in Full Screen mode: look through previews without distraction!

IT'S TIME TO UNITE

QUICK TIP

Web designers should find **Quick Look** a handy tool. If you preview an HTML web page, **Quick Look** renders everything using the same engine that powers *Safari*. For other document types, you get a syntax-coloured preview of the code if you install the free plug-in *qlcolorcode*.

Install programs correctly

Make sure you correctly download and install apps on your Mac

>> ON THE DISC
Find some apps here on the disc.

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: A DMG application file

For seasoned users, installing new applications is second nature. However, for anyone new to Macs it's likely to be one of the first things to cause confusion. It's not that it's complicated; it's just a bit baffling if you're used to a different operating system.

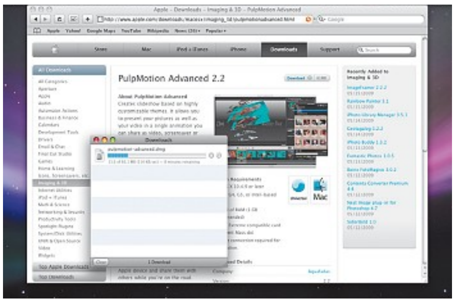
If you've made the move from a PC then forget everything you thought you knew. The Mac does things differently. First off, all applications are stored in the **Applications** folder.

> *"Installing apps is a bit baffling if you're used to a different operating system"*

You can run programs from another location but it helps to keep things organised. Most of the apps that you install on a Mac are packaged within a disk image file. You can recognise these by the DMG extension. Think of a disk image as a kind of virtual hard disk or CD containing the application you're going to install.

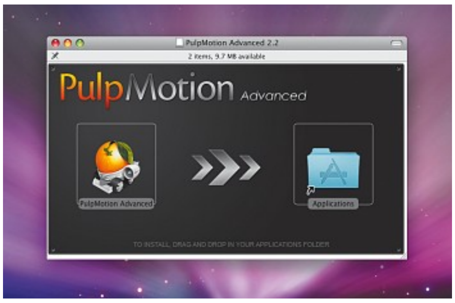
Paul Townsend

>> HOW TO / Download and install the right way


PulpMotion Advanced 2.2

01 Download an application

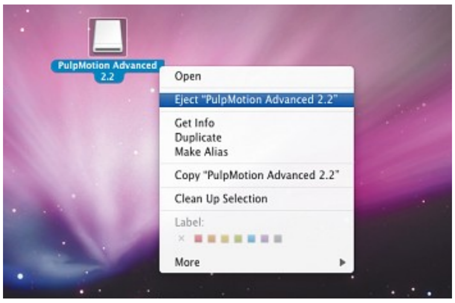
Once you've downloaded a DMG file from the internet it usually appears on your Mac's Desktop and then opens automatically. If it doesn't, double-click on it either on your Desktop or in your **Downloads** folder. When it opens it displays the app as a single icon.


PulpMotion Advanced 2.2
2 items, 9.7 MB available
PulpMotion Advanced
PulpMotion Advanced
Applications

TO INSTALL, DRAG AND DROP IN YOUR APPLICATIONS FOLDER

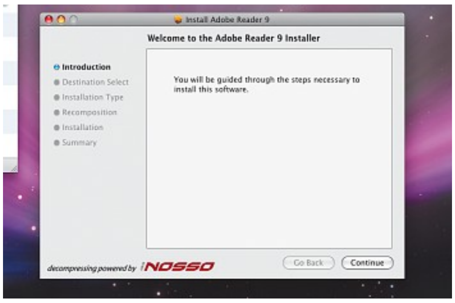
02 Installing the application

To install the application all you have to do is drag this icon into your **Applications** folder. To make things easier, most DMG files also contain a shortcut to your **Applications** folder. Once you've dragged the icon over, the application is installed on your Mac.


PulpMotion Advanced 2.2
Open
Eject "PulpMotion Advanced 2.2"
Get Info
Duplicate
Make Alias
Copy "PulpMotion Advanced 2.2"
Clean Up Selection
Label:
More

03 Remove DMG file

Once the application is installed you'll no longer need the DMG file so it can be deleted. To do this, hold down ctrl, click on the DMG file on your Desktop and choose **Eject** from the menu. Having done this you can then drag the DMG file from your **Downloads** folder to the Trash.

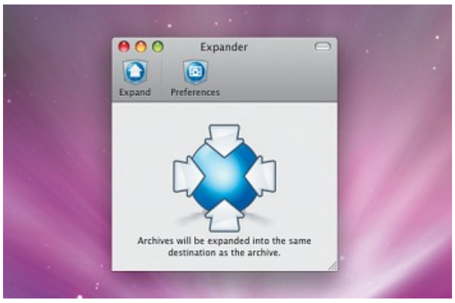

Install Adobe Reader 9
Introduction
Destination Select
Installation Type
Recomposition
Installation
Summary
decompressing powered by INOSSO
Go Back
Continue

Welcome to the Adobe Reader 9 Installer

You will be guided through the steps necessary to install this software.

04 Other installation files

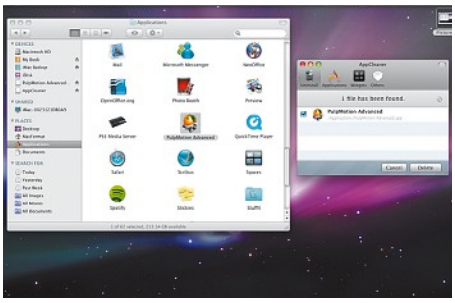
You can also install applications from compressed ZIP and PKG files. Just double-click the file to open it. For these files, the application installations are more like a step-by-step setup process. Here you'll be prompted for your input through each stage of the installation process.


Expander
Expand
Preferences

Archives will be expanded into the same destination as the archive.

05 StuffIt and install it

Occasionally you may come across installation files with the SIT extension. These are files that have been compressed using *StuffIt*. To expand these files and install the application, download and install *StuffIt Expander* from **http://my.smithmicro.com**.


Applications
AppCleaner
1 file has been found.
PulpMotion Advanced
Cancel
Delete

06 Uninstalling applications

If you're sure you'll never want to use an application again it's easily removed. Simply drag the icon from the **Applications** folder to the Trash. If you want to be sure no other files have been left behind, try *AppCleaner*, which is on the disc. Also see our tutorial on page 62. ●

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SYSTEM STATUS OK
intel Leap ahead
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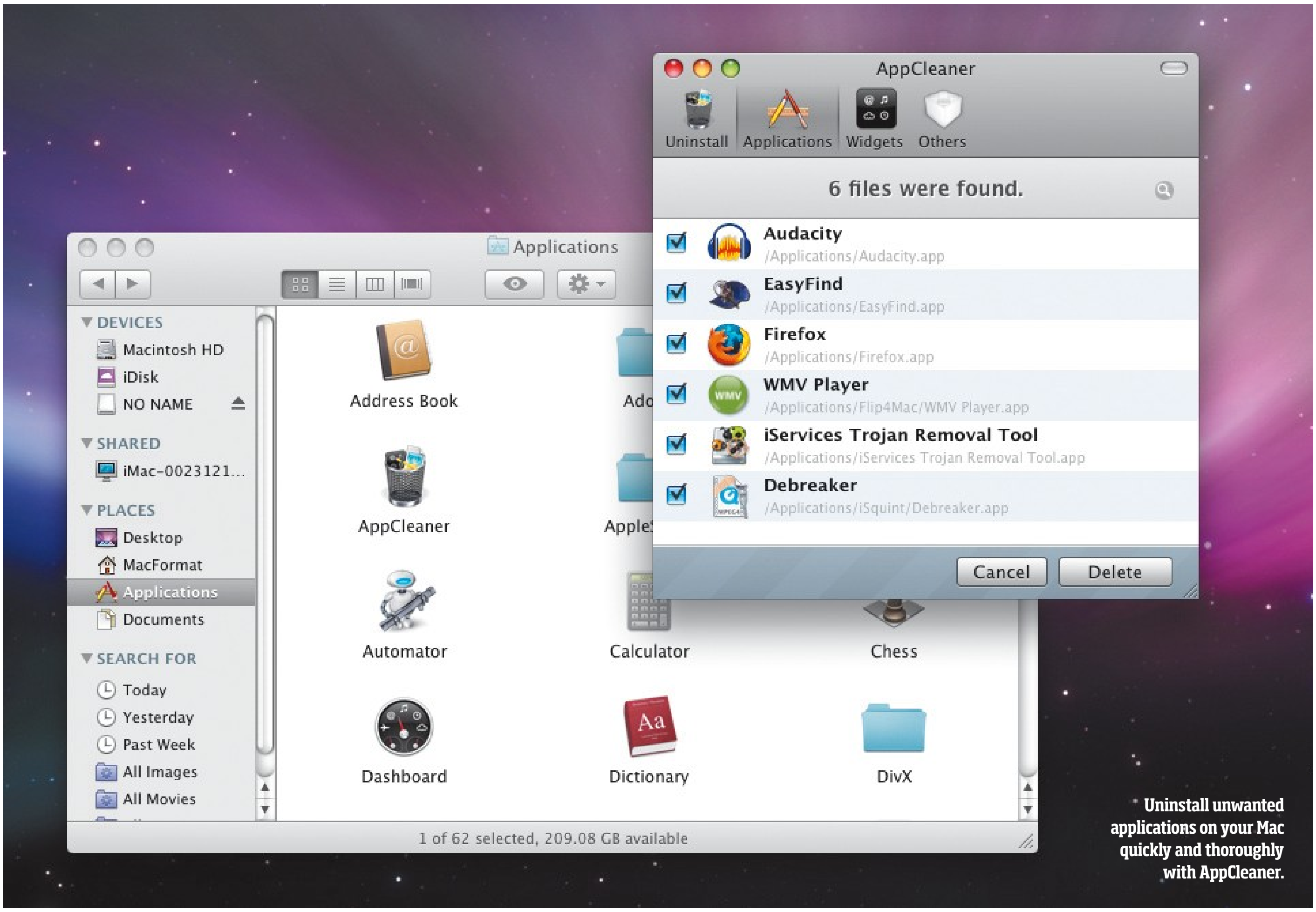

Applications
DEVICES
Macintosh HD
iDisk
NO NAME
SHARED
iMac-0023121...
PLACES
Desktop
MacFormat
Applications
Documents
SEARCH FOR
Today
Yesterday
Past Week
All Images
All Movies
Address Book
AppCleaner
Automator
Calculator
Chess
Dashboard
Dictionary
DivX
1 of 62 selected, 209.08 GB available
AppCleaner
Uninstall
Applications
Widgets
Others
Cancel
Delete

6 files were found.

☑ **Audacity** /Applications/Audacity.app
☑ **EasyFind** /Applications/EasyFind.app
☑ **Firefox** /Applications/Firefox.app
☑ **WMV Player** /Applications/Flip4Mac/WMV Player.app
☑ **iServices Trojan Removal Tool** /Applications/iServices Trojan Removal Tool.app
☑ **Debreaker** /Applications/iSquint/Debreaker.app

Uninstall unwanted applications on your Mac quickly and thoroughly with AppCleaner.

Cleanly remove programs

Make sure all elements of applications are removed when you uninstall them

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: AppCleaner (free from **www.freemacsoft.net**, some unwanted applications

>> ON THE DISC You'll find *AppCleaner* on the disc.

Adding new programs to your Mac couldn't be simpler. In fact, it's so easy to do it won't be long before your Applications folder is filled up with all kinds of weird and wonderful software. However, when one of these applications outlives its usefulness you'll want to get rid of it to avoid any unnecessary clutter. Removing an unwanted item is simple enough. Or so you would think. Click and drag the icon from the Applications folder to the Trash and it's gone. Right? Well, yes and no.

Mac application installations are relatively tidy compared to those on other operating systems. Most are self contained bundles which don't leave a myriad files dotted around all over the place. However, there are exceptions. What can sometimes remain are preference files and support files. Simply dragging a Mac application icon into the Trash won't remove these items as well.

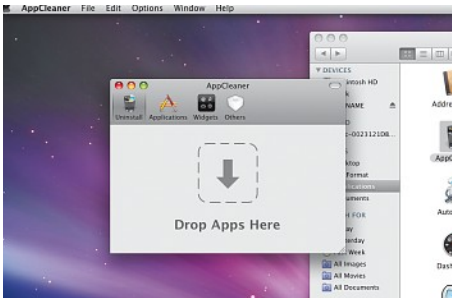
Even though your unwanted application is now in the Trash, there's a good chance that file remnants have been left behind. It's possible to delete these manually, but identifying them isn't always straightforward. You don't want to make a mistake and remove something in error. To be sure that everything is removed correctly and efficiently you're going to need help.

> *"Your Mac doesn't have a dedicated software removal utility so you'll need AppCleaner"*

Your Mac doesn't have its own dedicated software removal utility so you'll need to download one. One tool you can use is *AppCleaner*, which is on the disc or free from www.freemacsoft.net. Simply drag an unwanted application onto the *AppCleaner* icon to see what else is associated with it. This ensures that any files related to an application are identified and removed along with the main application bundle. It's extremely easy to use.

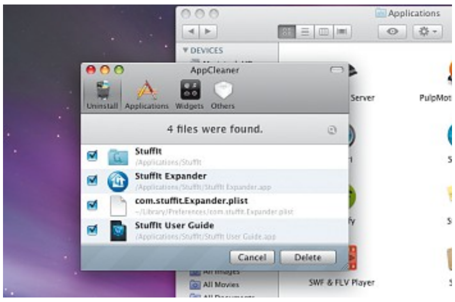
Paul Townsend

HOW TO / Uninstall applications completely


AppCleaner File Edit Options Window Help
AppCleaner
Uninstall Applications Widgets Others
Drop Apps Here

01 Drag and drop

Once you've installed *AppCleaner*, open it. There are two ways in which you can use this tool to uninstall your applications. The first is to find an application that you no longer wish to use and drag its application icon onto where it says **Drop Apps Here**.

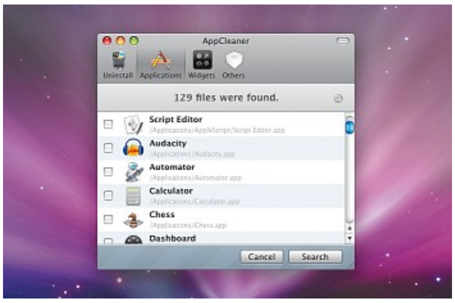

AppCleaner
Uninstall Applications Widgets Others
Cancel
Delete

4 files were found.

☑ StuffIt
☑ StuffIt Expander
☑ com.stuffit.Expander.plist
☑ StuffIt User Guide

02 View related files

Having done this you'll be shown all of the files related to that application. The checkbox alongside each item will automatically be ticked. Clear this if you don't want an item to be deleted. Then simply click on **Delete** to complete the uninstallation process.

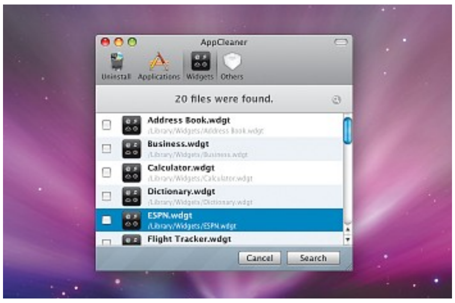

AppCleaner
Uninstall Applications Widgets Others
Cancel
Search

129 files were found.

☐ Script Editor
☐ Audacity
☐ Automator
☐ Calculator
☐ Chess
☐ Dashboard

03 Identify applications

The alternative uninstallation method is to click on **Applications** in *AppCleaner*. This displays a complete list of the applications that are installed on your Mac. Select one from the list and click on **Search** to find any related files and then delete them.

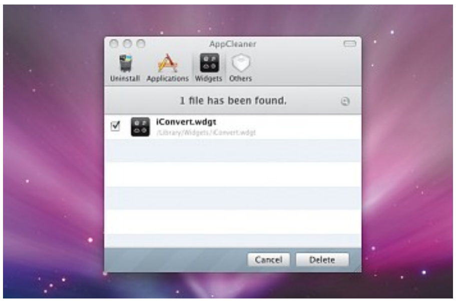

AppCleaner
Uninstall Applications Widgets Others
Cancel
Search

20 files were found.

☐ Address Book.wdgt
☐ Business.wdgt
☐ Calculator.wdgt
☐ Dictionary.wdgt
☐ ESPN.wdgt
☐ Flight Tracker.wdgt

04 Deleting widgets 1

You can use *AppCleaner* to uninstall widgets as well. If you've been using *Dashboard* and have removed a widget from view it's still installed on your system. In order to uninstall it completely, click on **Widgets** in *AppCleaner* and a complete list will be displayed.

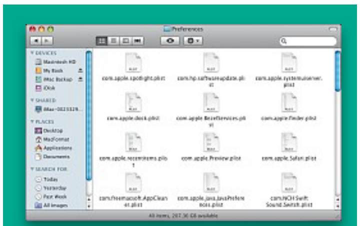

AppCleaner
Uninstall Applications Widgets Others
Cancel
Delete

1 file has been found.

☑ iConvert.wdgt

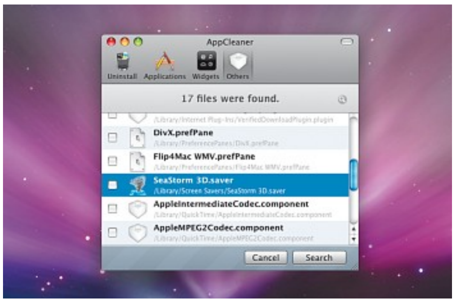
05 Deleting widgets 2

Select the widget you'd like to get rid of then click on **Search**. This will display the widget along with any related files. Click on **Delete** and the items will be removed. Don't worry if you make a mistake as you can still recover deleted items from the Trash.


Preferences

QUICK TIP

Although many applications tell you to drag and drop an item to the Trash icon to uninstall it, there are usually files left behind. And manually removing these files from Library > Application Support or Library > Preferences can prove costly if the wrong file is removed. Always use a tool like *AppCleaner*.

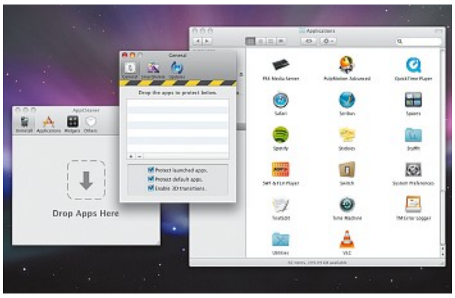

AppCleaner
Uninstall Applications Widgets Others
Cancel
Search

17 files were found.

☐ DivX.prefPane
☐ Flip4Mac WMV.prefPane
☐ SeaStorm 3D.saver
☐ AppleIntermediateCodec.component
☐ AppleMPEG2Codec.component

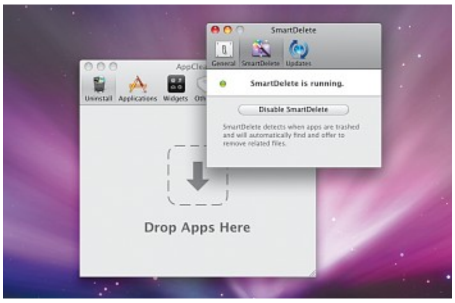
06 Plug-ins and add-ons

AppCleaner will also remove other unwanted items including plug-ins and downloaded screensavers. Click on **Others** in *AppCleaner* to see a list of items. Exercise caution here as removing the wrong files could result in an application not performing correctly.


AppCleaner
Drop Apps Here
Applications

07 Accident prevention

In the *AppCleaner* menu bar click on **Preferences**. There's a safety feature here where you can drag and drop applications to protect them from being accidentally uninstalled. Alternatively, click on the **+** button to locate an application and add it manually.


SmartDelete
General SmartDelete Updates
AppCleaner
Uninstall Applications Widgets
Disable SmartDelete
Drop Apps Here

SmartDelete is running.

SmartDelete detects when apps are trashed and will automatically find and offer to remove related files.

08 SmartDelete

Automate the removal process that *AppCleaner* uses by clicking on **SmartDelete**. Whenever an application is selected for removal in *AppCleaner*, all of its associated files will be identified as well, enabling you to remove everything in one simple step. ●

>>OS X SURVIVAL GUIDE

Protect kids online

Christopher Brennan explains the benefits of Parental Controls

>>PROFILE

Name: Christopher Brennan
Occupation: Freelance journalist, Mac consultant and house-husband
System(s): Mac Pro (2x2.8GHz), MacBook (2GHz), 20-inch iMac (2GHz), 12-inch PowerBook G4 (1GHz)

When the midwife handed me my newborn daughter, all those promises I had made about not being over protective and letting her do the stuff I was never allowed to do were instantly erased. The need to protect our offspring is a natural and primeval one. Whether it's holding their hand near a busy road, telling them not to climb the tree at the bottom of the garden or not to speak to strangers, protecting our young ones is a base instinct.

Part of life

The next generation of children will grow up with the internet and computers as part of their lives; they will be bored by our tales of our first iPhone and the joy of accessing the web anywhere, anytime, or the time we had to rebuild the Desktop. They will take it for granted and that's just how it should be. However, the protective instinct of a parent will not be far behind and shielding them in the virtual world will become as important as in the real world.

The current generation needs protecting too. Luckily, Apple supplies a set of tools to help parents keep the nefarious corners of the web out of reach and computer addition to a minimum. The Parental Controls section of *System Preferences* is a really comprehensive way of letting children use the internet and your Mac without having to worry about what they might see or get up to.

Thankfully, setting up Parental Controls isn't all that difficult, it can, however be a bit of a long process. First of all, you have to set up an account for them in System Preferences > Accounts. Click on the + symbol to add a new account, and in the drop-down menu next to New Account, select Managed with Parental Controls. Fill in all the details as necessary and click Create Account.

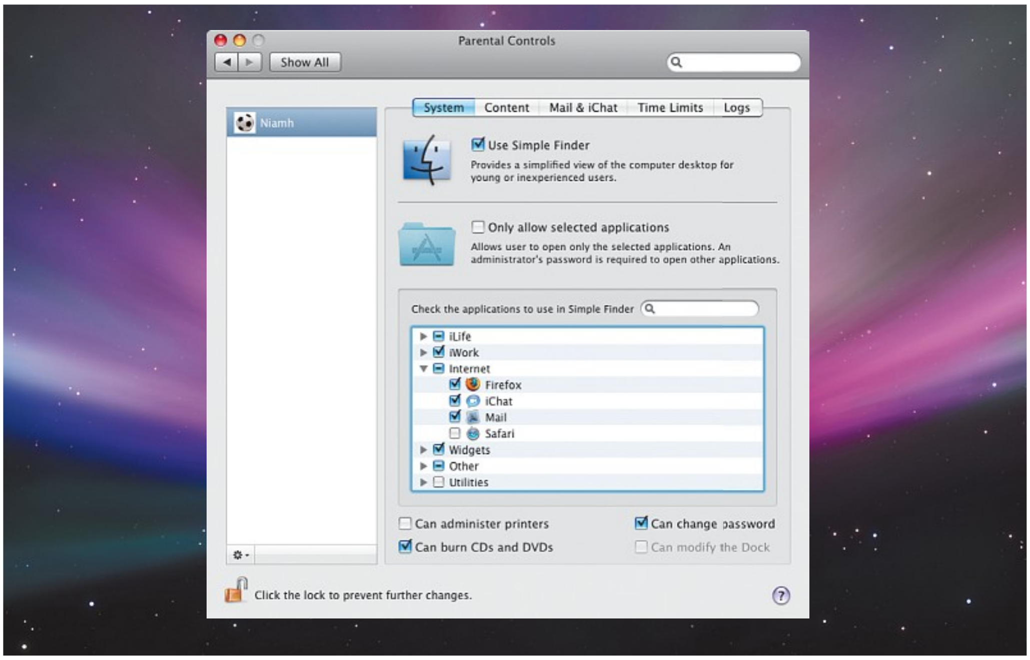
> *"Parental Controls is a great way of letting children use the internet and your Mac without worrying about what they'll see or get up to"*

That's it as far as creating a managed account goes, but you now have to decide which parts of the Mac and internet you'd like to control. Click on Open Parental Controls and highlight the profile you want to edit. You now get to choose just how locked down you make the system. Remember, if you lock everything out, the lack of anything to do might put your child off altogether.

The tabs allow you to control the system, content, *Mail* and *iChat* as well as setting time limits. In addition you can view logs of what your child has been up to. As a parent you have great power over how the Mac is locked down. Perhaps the most effective restriction is that of *Simple Finder*. Use *Simple Finder* and the Only allow selected applications option to really lock down the Mac. Perhaps best of all, however, are the time limits. You can restrict access after a certain time with different weekday and weekend access. You can also set a limit on the amount of time your child can use your Mac for, from 30 minutes to eight hours.

Parental supervision

It's up to you how far you go and what you restrict, but Mac OS X restrictions mean that it's unlikely you'll need to buy extra software to protect your offspring. Of course, there's no substitute for actual supervision. However, if you'd like to give them a bit of freedom to experience the internet and use a Mac, then Parental Controls will put your mind at ease. It can't stop them from climbing the trees at the bottom of the garden or attempting to sneak out in a miniskirt, but that's a problem for another day. ●



☑ Use Simple Finder
Provides a simplified view of the computer desktop for young or inexperienced users.

☐ Only allow selected applications
Allows user to open only the selected applications. An administrator's password is required to open other applications.

Check the applications to use in Simple Finder

- ⊟ iLife
- ☑ iWork
- ⊟ Internet
  - ☑ Firefox
  - ☑ iChat
  - ☑ Mail
  - ☐ Safari
- ☑ Widgets
- ⊟ Other
- ☐ Utilities

☐ Can administer printers
☑ Can burn CDs and DVDs
☑ Can change password
☐ Can modify the Dock

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

The Parental Controls pane in System Preferences keeps your child safe and prevents them spending too much time online.

The in-depth guide for creative professionals
computer arts projects
Issue 126
August 2009
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Bea's MacBook Pro
Dad's PC
Office Mac Pro
All…
PLACES
Desktop
John
Applications
Custom Homes
Charlie Skateboarding
Science Lab
Surfing.mov
Get Mail
Delete
Junk
Reply
Reply All
MAILBOXES
Inbox
MobileMe
Exchange
Drafts
Sent
Trash
Junk
REMINDERS
Notes
To Do
ON MY MAC
Memorable
Payroll
Projects
MOBILEME
EXCHANGE
Carpool
Events
From
Lesley Gil
Steve Zabriskie
Ronak Shah
Ronak Shah
Tony Rivas
Sales Forecast 2009
Projected U.S. Revenue
100
80
60
40
20
MacBook Pro

From: Tony Rivas
Subject: Sales Forecast
Date: June 8, 2009 10:50:12 AM PDT
To: John Appleseed
2 Attachments, 789 KB

John,

Here's the latest sales breakdown for 2009. We should take a closer look at all the data. Let's plan to meet this Friday at 8:00 a.m. I've also attached an updated version of the financial forecast for you to review.

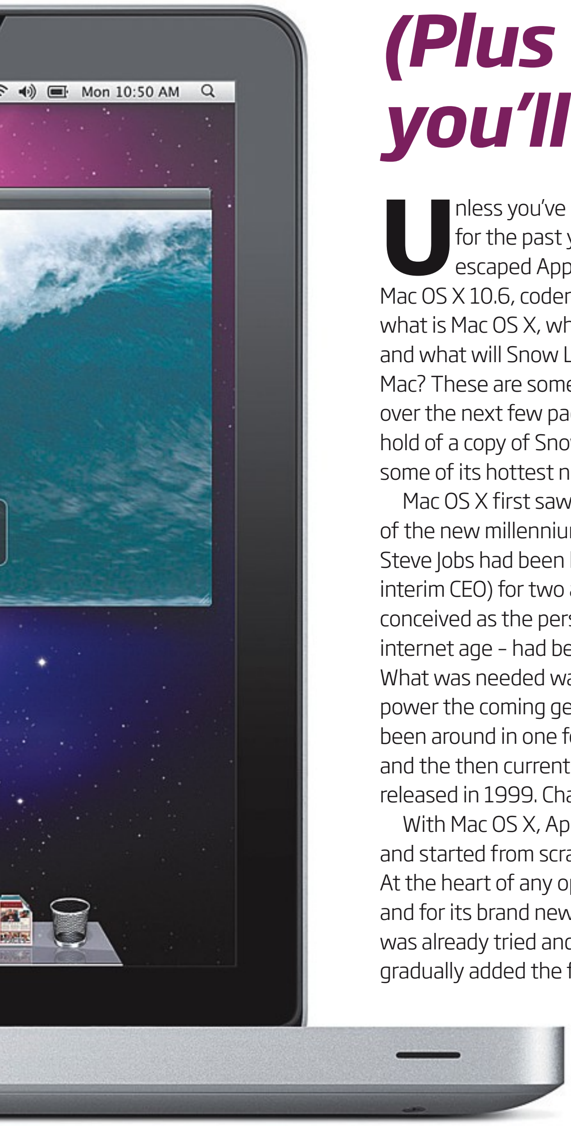
>>SNOW LEOPARD FACT

Sometimes it's the little things that matter. You've always been able to display the time or the date in the OS X menu bar, but never show both together. Making its debut in OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard is the ability to display both the time and the date together in the menu bar at last.

Snow Leopard is more about refinement; it's more user friendly and takes up less HD space.

you'll love Leopard

(Plus a few more we think you'll really, really like!)



Unless you've been locked in a cupboard for the past year you can hardly have escaped Apple's advance publicity for Mac OS X 10.6, codenamed Snow Leopard. But what is Mac OS X, why is it so important to Apple, and what will Snow Leopard mean to you and your Mac? These are some of the questions we'll answer over the next few pages. We've managed to get hold of a copy of Snow Leopard, so we will reveal some of its hottest new features to you.

Mac OS X first saw the light of day at the dawn of the new millennium: it was January 2000, and Steve Jobs had been back at the helm of Apple (as interim CEO) for two and a half years. The iMac – conceived as the personal computer for the internet age – had been launched in January 1998. What was needed was an operating system to power the coming generations of Macs. Mac OS had been around in one form or another since 1984, and the then current version, Mac OS 9, had been released in 1999. Change was in the air.

With Mac OS X, Apple jettisoned its previous OS and started from scratch: well, not quite scratch. At the heart of any operating system is the kernel, and for its brand new OS Apple chose a kernel that was already tried and trusted: Mach. To this it gradually added the features.

In going back to the drawing board, some much-loved features of the older Mac OS – now called Classic – were inevitably lost. Over the succeeding generations, however, favourite features such as spring-loaded folders have been reintroduced, and entirely new ones, such as Spotlight and *Dashboard*, have been added. One of the side-effects of all this innovation was an increase in the amount of disk space taken up by the OS, and by the time Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard was released in October 2007, there were mutterings about it becoming, well, bloated.

At Apple's Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) in 2008, Steve Jobs announced that Mac OS X 10.6 (Snow Leopard) was in development. This would be a chance for Apple to take stock of where it was with OS X. There would be no major innovations, but plenty of refinements: it would install quicker, take up less disk space, and the user experience would be improved through Apple's attention to detail. Fast forward to WWDC 2009, and the version of Snow Leopard being prepared has everything Apple promised, and more.

Refinement rather than revolution, then, is the watchword for Snow Leopard. We've picked out just nine of those elegant tweaks and finesses – plus a few more for good measure – to show you what Apple's latest big cat has to offer. Oh, and one more thing: Snow Leopard is for Intel Macs only. To those of you who have an Intel Mac you should definitely think about upgrading; for those who don't, maybe the time has come to consign that PowerPC Mac to the kids' bedroom.

>> SNOW LEOPARD FACT

Spaces, which enables you to set up a number of different workspaces for specific tasks, assigning different applications to each Space, was introduced in Leopard. Now in Snow Leopard it's even easier to use: right-click an application in the Dock, and you can assign it to a particular Space.

Finder in Snow Leopard is also improved, being more responsive and working better with external drives.

#1 A better Finder

So many of the improvements in Snow Leopard are under the skin, but because they affect the parts of the operating system we use most, we'll experience real, long-term benefits when we use them. Take *Finder*, for instance. We use the *Finder* application every time we use our Mac, so doesn't it make sense to rewrite its underlying code to optimise it for the latest technologies, such as 64-bit processing (see box to the right)? Well, that's exactly what Apple has done with Snow Leopard.

So what's that experience like? Well, in a direct comparison with Leopard, Snow Leopard's *Finder* does seem a little more eager to respond – it's only a matter of milliseconds to be sure, but an improvement nonetheless. And, of course, add up all those milliseconds and you're getting a little bit of your life back, if you think about it.

That aside, improvements have also been made when it comes to ejecting external drives and optical discs. For instance, if you inadvertently leave a file from one of your disks open, you no longer see the cryptic error message that says: The disk...is in use by another application. In Snow Leopard, *Finder* actually tells you what application it is, and advises you to quit it.

#2 QuickTime X

QuickTime is the multimedia framework that underpins the way you experience audio and movies on your Mac and, like *Finder*, in Snow Leopard it's been optimised to take full advantage of 64-bit computing. In addition, it now uses the capabilities of the NVIDIA GeForce 9400M integrated graphics processor (found in such Macs as the MacBook, MacBook Pro and Mac mini) to decode videos compressed using the popular H.264 standard. This in turns frees up the main processor in your Mac for other tasks.

As of Snow Leopard, *QuickTime Player* – Apple's cross-platform multimedia player – also reaches version X. Not only does it launch quicker than before (Apple claims up to 2.8 times faster), but it looks different – very different. Gone is the brushed aluminium skin, and in comes a slick, minimalist interface with media controls (play, pause, fast forward, and so on) that fade out of view when you don't need them. And that's not all: need to make a training video for your colleagues on that hot new application? No problem: choose File > New Screen Recording and do it! You can even perform basic video editing using the new **Trim** feature (in the **Edit** menu), and upload your video directly to *iTunes*, your MobileMe Gallery or YouTube.

>> PROCESSORS / What is 64-bit computing?

Suddenly, it seems everyone's talking about the benefits of 64-bit computing, how everything's much faster, more responsive… just better, in fact, in every way. Of course, we've been this way before: the PowerPC G5 processor – used in the Power Mac G5 tower as well as the humble iMac until 2006 – was a 64-bit processor. Put simply, 64-bit processors (such as the Intel Core 2 series used in the current generation of Macs) can handle twice the amount of data at once than the previous generation of 32-bit processors, a 'bit' (short for binary digit) being the smallest amount of information a computer can process. As an analogy, imagine the effect that doubling the width of a motorway would have on the flow of traffic, and you'll have some idea why people are getting excited about 64-bit computing.

Snow Leopard includes 64-bit versions of most of its built-in applications (all, in fact, except for *DVD Player, Front Row, Grapher*, and *iTunes*). This, in turn, means that your Mac's internal hardware – such as memory (RAM) – can be used much more efficiently. Not only that, but with 64-bit architecture much more RAM can be supported: up to 16 terabytes for Snow Leopard, and a theoretical maximum of 16 billion gigabytes (16 exabytes). Oh, and don't worry – you can still run 32-bit applications under Snow Leopard.

COMPATIBILITY / Snow Leopard's system requirements

For months there had been speculation that Snow Leopard would run on Intel Macs only, and this was confirmed at WWDC 2009. The basic system requirements are: Mac with an Intel processor, 1GB of memory, 5GB of free disk space, DVD drive for installation, some features require a compatible internet service provider (fees may apply), some features require Apple's MobileMe service (fees and terms apply). (In addition, *Exchange* support requires Microsoft *Exchange Server 2007 Service Pack 1 Update Rollup 4*.)

There are additional requirements for certain features, such as *Photo Booth* and *Boot Camp*; you'll find the full list at **www.apple.com/macosx/specs.html**.

The reasons for dropping PowerPC support are numerous, not the least of which is that it has enabled Apple to shrink the footprint of Snow Leopard in comparison with the previous version of Mac OS X: Apple claims a saving of 6GB of disk space.

If you're the owner of a PowerPC Mac you might well be feeling disappointed. However, maybe this is the perfect opportunity (or excuse) to upgrade to one of the new Intel Macs – those doing so on or after 8 June and before Snow Leopard is installed at the factory can claim a copy of Snow Leopard for just £7.95 under Apple's Snow Leopard Up-To-Date Programme. For more details go to **www.apple.com/uk/macosx/uptodate**.

Mac OS X Snow Leopard
The world's most advanced operating system. Finely tuned.

Intel Macs – such as this iMac – will take full advantage of Snow Leopard.

#3 A much more polished Preview

We've said before that *Preview* is the hidden gem of Mac OS X. Starting out as a humble image viewer, its feature-set now goes way beyond showing previews of printed pages. For instance, have you ever tried to copy and paste text from a PDF into a word processor and found that the PDF's formatting gave you more work than if you'd just retyped the whole thing? Well, no more: Apple has added a little bit of artificial intelligence to recognise that, say, the text in your PDF is arranged in columns and allows you to select what you need.

What if you want to annotate your PDF before you send it to your colleagues? No problem: click **Annotate** in *Preview*'s toolbar, and a comprehensive set of annotation tools appears along the bottom of the application window, allowing you to add callout arrows, text boxes and highlights to make your point. Open multiple PDFs and you can view them all in a single window (like a contact sheet in *Photoshop*), allowing for a quick comparison.

And it doesn't stop there: you can now scan images directly into *Preview*, adding yet another tool to what's already a veritable Swiss Army Knife of an app.

Getty Images

Snow Leopard was first announced at WWDC 2008, but it was the 2009 event that revealed its true power.

SNOW LEOPARD FACT

In OS X you can retrieve a file from the Trash by simply opening the Trash from the Dock and manually dragging the file out. Now in Snow Leopard you can open the Trash, select **Put Away** from the **Action** menu (the cogwheel icon), and your file's back in its original location. Nice!

#4 Address Book and iCal

For another example of the 'refinement rather than revolution' policy adopted by Apple for Snow Leopard, look no further than *Address Book*. The **Sharing** and **LDAP** options in **Preferences** are now combined into a single **Accounts** pane, which now allows you to set up syncing with Google as well as Yahoo! and MobileMe. For Google users, this is a welcome recognition by Apple that there are online contact managers other then MobileMe; though, of course, this option has previously been available to iPhone users.

We set up syncing with MobileMe and (separately) with Google, and found the syncing experience pretty seamless. All you need to do is enter your email address and password, and everything is done for you. There was a bit of a glitch when we tried syncing with Google, which left our contacts without an email address listed in *Address Book* as **No Name**, but other than that we were impressed.

The big news when it comes to syncing, however, is Snow Leopard's built-in support for Microsoft's *Exchange Server 2007*. We've more on this in the box on page 71.

#5 Better screen grab features

Whether you're emailing a technical support helpdesk or helping out a Mac newbie it's great to be able to take a few shots of your Mac's screen by simply hitting ⌘+⇧+3. But how often have you looked forlornly for that one grab that makes your point succinctly, only to find it mingling with others labelled **Picture…**? No more: Snow Leopard labels your grabs with the date and time they were taken, making it much simpler to find the one you want.

While we're on the subject of refinements, we'd have liked to have seen an option here to change the default target folder for screenshots. Saving multiple grabs to the Desktop makes for a lot of clutter, unless you move each one in turn as you take them. Luckily, there are applications such as *TinkerTool* (freeware, from **www.bresink.com**) which let you make this change. The equivalent *Terminal* command also still works in Snow Leopard.

And don't forget, you needn't stop at still images: with *QuickTime X* (see p68) you can record all the activities taking place on your screen and edit them into a training video.

#6 More refined Stacks options

The changes made to **Stacks** are a prime example of Apple's strategy of refinement rather than revolution for Snow Leopard. **Stacks** is the feature – introduced as one of the '200 innovations' in Leopard – that allows you to click on a folder in the Dock and see your files expand, fan-like, so that you can pick out the one you need. Which is great, unless you have a large number of files to choose from. Even if you choose to have your Stack open as a grid or a list (which you can do by clicking and holding on the Stack icon, then choosing the appropriate option), you might still see a message that there are more files to view in *Finder*. Open that same Stack in Snow Leopard and you'll see that things are different: by the simple addition of a scrollbar to the open Stack, Apple has made the feature much more useable. And the refinements don't stop there: if there's a folder nested inside your main Stack, it will also open as a Stack rather than switching to a *Finder* window. And you'll find a handy back arrow in the top-left corner of your open Stack so that you can easily find your way back where you came from.

#7 Exposé now in the Dock

Exposé allows you to view all the open windows in the current application, or across the whole system, with a single keystroke. All those keystrokes, however, can be time-consuming if you need to switch to a different application before using *Exposé* on the new app's open windows. What if you know which application you need to switch to? Wouldn't it be great to switch applications and use *Exposé* at the same time? Well, now you can.

With *Exposé* now, simply click and hold an app's icon in the Dock and all open windows in that application will separate, allowing you to switch windows. And press ⇥ while *Exposé* is active in order to move to the next application in the Dock and activate *Exposé* on that. Application windows are spring-loaded, so you can drag and drop items between them.

Dock *Exposé* is typical of the drawing together of numerous threads that Snow Leopard represents. It's one more example of Apple's attention to detail, bringing together elements from the first version of OS X (the Dock) with one that was added later (*Exposé*).

>>SNOW LEOPARD FACT

TextEdit is a great application, but in Snow Leopard this no-frills text editor has gradually acquired more features, so it could be the only word processor you'll ever need. The Snow Leopard version corrects common typing errors – such as 'teh' instead of 'the' – automatically.

Apple's Address Book and iCal apps have also been refined, so you can now sync with Google and Yahoo!.

The New York Times
PRESIDENT OBAMA VOWS ERA OF RESPONSIBILITY
PRESIDENT OBAMA VOWS ERA OF RESPONSIBILITY
MacBook Pro
ALVA

Snow Leopard includes support for more than 40 Braille readers out of the box.

#8 Access all areas

More often than not, Macs have been the choice of those who need assistance with their hearing or vision, and Snow Leopard builds on that history with a powerful set of enhanced features.

VoiceOver is Mac OS X's built-in screen reader, speaking text and commands for partially sighted users. This now has a better startup tutorial with practical examples. *VoiceOver* now allows you to fine-tune the speaking voice's settings, including speed, pitch and intonation.

Also for partially sighted users, Snow Leopard introduces a feature called Braille mirroring. This enables multiple USB Braille displays to be connected to one computer simultaneously. This is a highly practical for classroom settings, where different students are likely to have different makes and models of Braille display. Snow Leopard includes the drivers for more than 40 different models of Braille reader, including Bluetooth displays.

More new accessibility features include Quick Nav. This uses arrow key combinations to move the *VoiceOver* cursor so you can control a Mac using one hand. Move up, down, left, and right by pressing the arrow keys individually, or press the up and down arrows together to press a button or click a web link.

>> MICROSOFT EXCHANGE SUPPORT

Macs have always been at home in corporate environments: typically, it might have been a small network of Macs in a graphic design studio while the rest of the building was using Windows PCs. Now, with more users switching to Macs for their home PCs, many of those with Mac laptops want to take them to work. This usually worked out okay until it came to setting up a MacBook to access corporate mail, contacts and diaries through Microsoft's *Exchange Server*. The only solution was to buy the corporate edition of Microsoft *Office 2008 for Mac* - until now. Snow Leopard now incorporates support for *Exchange Server 2007* out of the box, something that can't be said of most Windows PCs.

You should even be able to set up *Exchange Server 2007* yourself: in *Mail*, go to Mail > Preferences, choose **Accounts**, then click **+**. As long as you enter your username and password correctly Snow Leopard will set up your mail, calendar and contacts automatically.

HELLO FR
CUPERTINO CA

From now on you'll have all your workplace information at your fingertips: the availability of your colleagues for meetings as well as the conference rooms in which to hold those meetings. You can even send out invitations containing an ICS attachment that will add itself to an *iCal* calendar when it's double-clicked.

>> SNOW LEOPARD FACT

Snow Leopard introduces four new fonts to OS X and retires one in particular - Monaco, the monospace font (that is, a font with characters of equal width) used in *Terminal*, Mac OS X's command-line utility. It has been replaced by the clean lines of Menlo. Also new on the font front is Chalkduster.

#9 New System Preferences tools

Again, there are lots of thoughtful little touches in Snow Leopard's *System Preferences*, though no huge surprises. One really nice touch is the inclusion of new mapping technologies in the Time Zone option of the Date & Time preference pane. This uses Core Location technology, which makes use of WiFi hotspots to set your time zone automatically - perfect for the forgetful globetrotter.

In Security > General, if you've set up a password to wake your Mac from Sleep mode, you can now set a time delay of between five seconds and four hours before you need to enter your password.

The International pane in *System Preferences* is also gone now, replaced by Language & Text. This is, admittedly, almost the same as Leopard's International, but with the addition of a Text pane. This is similar to the useful AutoCorrect feature that's in Microsoft *Word*, allowing you to set up custom shortcuts for your most commonly used words and phrases for use in applications such as *Mail, TextEdit* and *iChat*. In order to set this feature up in the relevant application, however, you'll first need to go to Edit > Substitutions > Text Replacement.

Oh yes, and just for good measure, you can now shuffle through a selection of your favourite screensaver pictures by choosing the Screen Saver option in the Desktop & Screen Saver pane. ●

Q&A

>> MEET YOUR Q&A EXPERT

Whatever your Mac-related problem, from misbehaving MacBooks to a wireless networks, Luis Villazon can help.

● HINTS & TIPS ● TROUBLESHOOTING ● EXPERT ADVICE ● ESSENTIAL INFO

>> ASK LUIS A QUESTION

Got a problem with your Mac? Then why not send your queries to Luis at **macformat.helpline @futurenet.com** and see if he can help.

Can I switch GarageBand's metronome off?

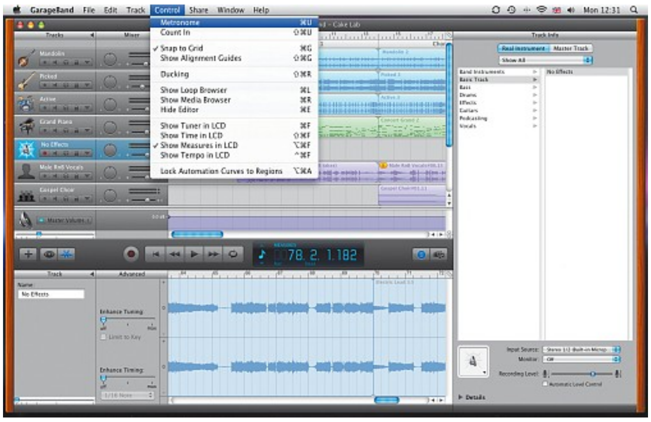
Q I am a recent convert to the Mac and enjoy using *GarageBand*. I have noticed the program has a very useful metronome feature but its default position is set to on. This can be a real nuisance when trying to record live events, as I have to remember to switch it off each time. Is it possible to get into the Registry and set this default to off? If so, how would I go about doing this?

Paul McKay

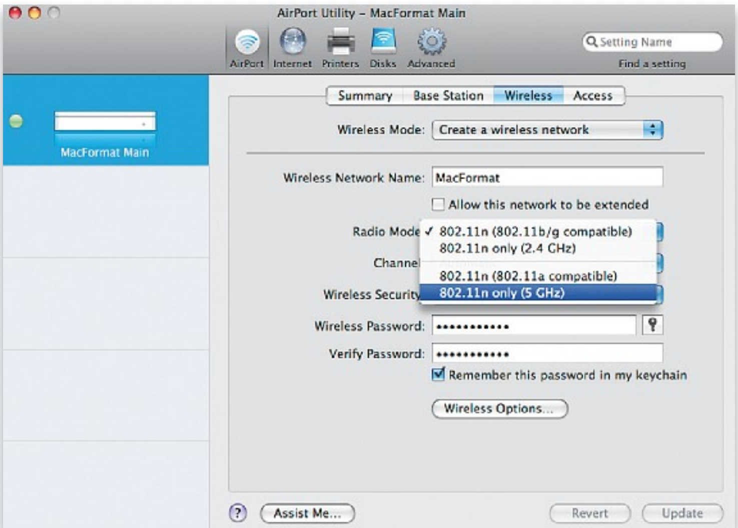
A OS X doesn't use a centralised registry to maintain application preference settings. These are kept in the individual .pref files for each application. But regardless, this is not a default that you will be able to alter directly. All new projects will open with the metronome enabled. However, there is a way to work around this. You can create a new project and turn the metronome off (ctrl > Metronome on the menu or press ⌘+U). If you save this empty project you can use it as a template so that you can start brand-new projects by opening up this template and immediately re-saving under a different name, instead of using File > New.

However, if left like that, this is a fairly clumsy fix, but if you drag this template to the Dock you can use it instead of the regular *GarageBand* icon to start the application. And if you want to go one further, you can even copy the icon file across to your template file so that it looks just like the "real" *GarageBand*. Open the Get Info panes for both files and then use cut and paste to transfer the icon, as shown in the box on page 76.

As well as getting rid of the metronome, templates are a great way to set up all sorts of different defaults for different kinds of tracks – mono podcasts versus stereo songs, for example.


GarageBand File Edit Track Control Share Window Help
Mon 12:31
Metronome ⌘U
Count In ⇧⌘U
✓ Snap to Grid ⌘G
Show Alignment Guides ⇧⌘G
Ducking ⇧⌘R
Show Loop Browser ⌘L
Show Media Browser ⌘R
Hide Editor ⌘E
Show Tuner in LCD ⌘F
Show Time in LCD ⇧⌘F
✓ Show Measures in LCD ⌥⌘F
Show Tempo in LCD ^⌘F
Lock Automation Curves to Regions ⌥⌘A
78. 2. 1.182

The metronome is undeniably handy but creating song templates is a good idea for those times you want to get rid of it.


AirPort Utility – MacFormat Main
AirPort
Internet
Printers
Disks
Advanced
Setting Name
Find a setting
MacFormat Main
Summary
Base Station
Wireless
Access
802.11n only (2.4 GHz)
802.11n (802.11a compatible)
Wireless Options...
Assist Me...
Revert
Update

Wireless Mode: Create a wireless network

Wireless Network Name: MacFormat

☐ Allow this network to be extended

Radio Mode: ✓ 802.11n (802.11b/g compatible)

Wireless Security: 802.11n only (5 GHz)

Wireless Password: ••••••••••

Verify Password: ••••••••••

☑ Remember this password in my keychain

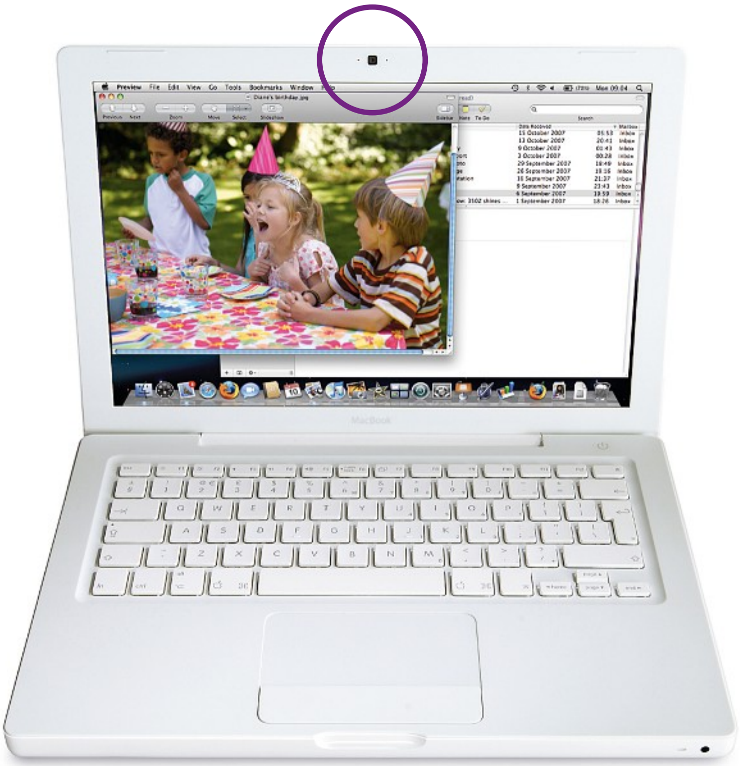
Ethernet 802.11n uses the 5GHz frequency, which is less prone to domestic interference.

Why is my Time Capsule misbehaving?

Q I have used a Time Capsule for nearly a year and it has worked well for my three Macs and two PCs at home. But a month ago, when I booted up one Mac, it started taking three minutes to connect the Time Capsule, failing to connect the first time. On the second try, it connected but asked for my password, even though it was set to remember it. When I rebooted again, it also failed the first time and asked for the password the second time. This never happened before. I've tried to format the Time Capsule and reset it, with no success.

Fan

A Asking for a password that it should already know is a classic



Ceci n'est pas une red light (with apologies to René Magritte).

sign of a network connection failing or authentication timing-out because of a poor or non-existent connection. You'll see it sometimes if you try and check your email immediately on booting OS X, before *AirPort* has initialised, for example.

If it used to work perfectly fine and now it doesn't then something has obviously changed in your network environment. My first test would probably be to check if it is specific to the wireless connection. Try connecting up the Time Capsule (and at least one of your Macs) to your router with a network cable. If this is now able to connect, it is more than likely that you have recently gained a little extra interference in the 2.4GHz part of the radio spectrum. Lots of other devices will emit on this frequency, including microwaves, mobile phones, radio control toys, wireless central heating thermostats and burglar alarms.

You may be able to reduce interference by switching to the less busy 5GHz part of the spectrum. To do this, open *AirPort Utility* and change the radio mode to 802.11n only (5GHz), instead of the compatibility mode for 802.11b and g. Older routers and AirPort Expresses don't support this mode though, in which case you might need to resort to a wired connection, I'm afraid.

What is that strange little red light on my Mac?

Q **The red light in the centre of the top part of the frame of the screen on my MacBook does not light up at present. Do you think this is a problem?**

Peter Lennon

A Hmm, I'm not really sure what's going on here but you sent me *exactly* the same question a year ago. And I answered it in *MF200*. The "red light" is the iSight lens of course, and a year ago it was pretty hard to believe that you didn't already know this yourself. But now? 12 months later, you still don't know what this "light" is? And you haven't bothered to ask anyone else, figure it out for yourself or think of a different way to phrase the question?

So either this is some kind of very odd prank or maybe you died years ago and are sitting at your desk still, a withered husk with finger outstretched to the Send button, while your MacBook loyally tries to get an answer for your final question. An answer that it can't ever receive because it can't turn to the Q&A section of all those *MacFormats* piling up on the doormat. But the answer is it's still the iSight lens.

Snow Leopard here we come

Bill Gallop

For those upgrading to Snow Leopard there are a number of things to bear in mind before blindly installing it on your Mac.

Firstly, do you need to do this today? If all goes well the install may only take an hour or so but can you afford the time to fix things if it doesn't go well or if you have to update loads of other programs? No matter how much testing Apple has done there is likely to be bugs in either Snow Leopard itself or in other programs, if you delay installing by a week or so then somebody else can have all the problems and you can benefit from their experiences.

Secondly, do some research. There is a good chance that you may need to update some of your other software or drivers for printers, graphics tablets etc. VersionTracker (**http://versiontracker.com**) and MacUpdate (**http://macupdate.com**) are both good sites for checking if you have the latest version and by the time Snow Leopard ships they should have started collating updates that are required for it.

Thirdly, back up your Mac. Even if you are using *Time Machine*, make an image of your system, so that you can restore your Mac to the state it was in before you started, in case of an emergency. You can use *Disk Utility*, located in Applications > Utilities, but I prefer *Carbon Copy Cloner* (**www.bombich.com/software/ccc.html**). Things could go wrong or you could find an incompatibility that causes issues, but if you have an image of your system you can put things back to the way they were.

> *"It's a good idea to make sure your Mac is in a good state before you upgrade as this can avoid a lot of problems"*

Fourthly, run utilities. It's a good idea to make sure your Mac is in a good state before you upgrade as this can avoid a lot of problems. Use *Disk Utility* to repair privileges and then boot from another drive and choose the repair disk option. A utility such as *OnyX* (**www.titanium.free.fr/pgs2/english/onyx_leopard.html**) can be used to clear caches of old data and run maintenance scripts.

Finally, you're ready to install. Make sure that you unplug any FireWire hard drives, as these have been known to cause issues with system updates in the past, and then boot from the Snow Leopard install DVD.

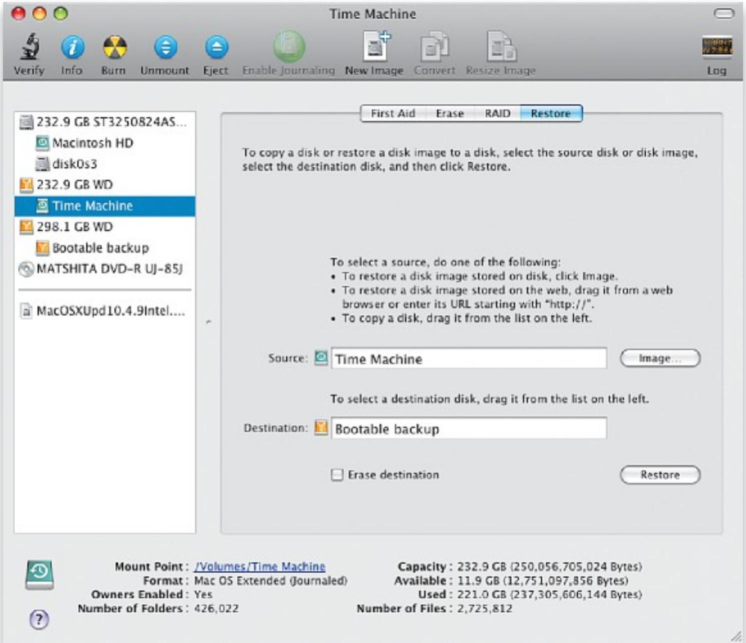
If your Mac can take it, treat yourself to some more RAM. Snow Leopard's minimum requirement is 1GB, up from Leopard's 512MB, so it will appreciate a bit more.

Bill Gallop is Mac Solutions Consultant for Equanet (www.equanet.co.uk). Each month Bill will share his knowledge with you, from upgrading your operating system to the advantages of RAW files.

>>QUICK TIP
If you want to add widgets to *Dashboard* click the **+** icon to bring up the widgets installed on your Mac. You can now drag them off the bar to add them to the *Dashboard*.

Can you help me with my Time Machine backups?

Q **I have just bought a 1TB hard drive to replace a smaller drive, which I intend to pass on to a friend of mine. Before formatting, would I be able to save the backup data in some way or will I just have to lose it all? I thought I could drag the files to the new drive but realised this would cause problems due to the old backups having the same filename.**
Jim Ormiston



To copy a disk or restore a disk image to a disk, select the source disk or disk image, select the destination disk, and then click Restore.

To select a source, do one of the following:
- To restore a disk image stored on disk, click Image.
- To restore a disk image stored on the web, drag it from a web browser or enter its URL starting with "http://".
- To copy a disk, drag it from the list on the left.

Source: Time Machine

To select a destination disk, drag it from the list on the left.

Destination: Bootable backup

☐ Erase destination

Mount Point : /Volumes/Time Machine
Format : Mac OS Extended (Journaled)
Owners Enabled : Yes
Number of Folders : 426,022
Capacity : 232.9 GB (250,056,705,024 Bytes)
Available : 11.9 GB (12,751,097,856 Bytes)
Used : 221.0 GB (237,305,606,144 Bytes)
Number of Files : 2,725,812

Use Disk Utility to copy Time Machine backups, otherwise hard links will expand into files.

A You could fix the naming conflict by simply moving the *Time Machine* archive into a subfolder on the new disc; that's not actually the real problem. You'll find the real problem is that *Time Machine* backups use hard links to all the files that haven't changed from one backup to another. If you use virtually any copying method to move the backup, all those hard links will be replaced with the actual files – and that's why hard links are so useful; the filing system treats them just like they were the files themselves. This means that you'll end up with a complete disk's worth of data for every backup in *Time Machine*. This will get big, fast and could even fill up your terabyte disk before you even start to think about adding anything else.

The trick, is not to copy the *Time Machine* backup, but instead to use *Disk Utility* to restore from *Time Machine* to the new disk. Turn *Time Machine* off before you start the restore, then disconnect the old drive before you re-enable it on the new drive. Otherwise you'll have two,

Use a Time Capsule with Time Machine to back up all your valuable data.

>> MACFIXIT TIPS / Cannot add or edit contacts in Apple's Address Book

Users have experienced an issue where they are unable to add contacts or edit existing contacts in *Address Book*. The issue appears to be linked to changed permissions in the application, following an archive and install procedure, though other users experience the issue without doing an archive and install.

Apple Support Discussions user mokarran_john writes: "I recently reinstalled and archived Leopard. After reinstalling I copied my library back from backups in *Time Machine*. For some reason, many of the folders' permissions in my library were write-only so I changed permissions to allow me to read and write, including all subfolders. Most apps work fine now but for some reason I still cannot do anything to *Address Book*; I can't add new contacts or edit current ones. I created a temporary user to see if I could edit contacts for that user, and I could, so it has got to be something to do with preferences for my account."

Possible solutions

Since mokarran_john has determined that the issue exists within his account (not system-wide) the troubleshooting can be directed more easily. The following are the troubleshooting attempts listed in the Apple Support Discussions thread:

1. Open *Disk Utility* and *Repair Permissions*. This action was tried and produced no results.

2. Navigate to (username > Library > Preferences) and move the **com.apple.AddressBook.plist** to the Desktop. Open *Address Book* and attempt to add or edit a contact. This action was tried and produced no results.

3. Post your error message (by running *Console.app* and attempting to change *Address Book* values) to an Apple Support Discussions, MacFixIt, or other support forum. This will allow other users to analyse your report and help determine where the issue may lie. This action was tried and produced new suggestions for forum users.

4. Shut down the *Address Book* widget (if it is indeed running). This action was tried and produced no results.

5. Run *Terminal* commands from an Administrator account:

```
sudo chown -R username ~username/
Library/Application Support/
AddressBook
```

then

```
sudo chmod -R u+rwX ~username/
Library/Application Support/
AddressBook
```

This action was tried and was successful. If you are attempting this solution, substitute your account name for username. Be sure to type the code exactly as it appears, otherwise this command changes the folder ownership in *Address Book* to the user and then makes them editable by the same user.

Please note that using *Terminal* for any solution can be dangerous if not used correctly. If you are a novice computer user, please seek the assistance of a user experienced using *Terminal* to repair issues. As always, be sure to have a stable backup before attempting solutions listed above.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

MACFIXIT TIPS / Double-up the backups instead of backing up the backups

Backups have always been cumbersome for most home computer users to set up and maintain. Before Leopard, you had to install a third-party backup program and deal with proprietary formats, data structure, and compression. Apple recognised these problems with the implementation of *Time Machine*, and the easy "set it and forget it" method of backing up has been a great option for most home users. However, there are still times when *Time Machine* will not work properly. It will stop backing up certain items, give frequent errors, or have odd behaviour that has the user question whether the backups are working properly.

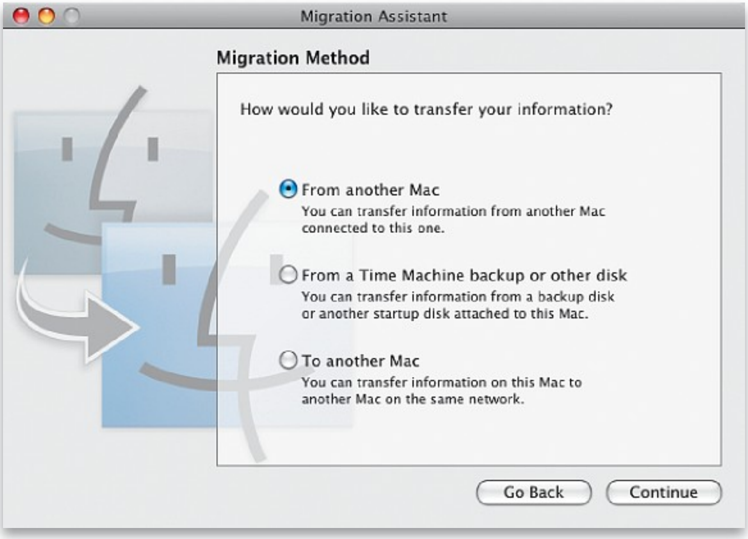
Since errors can happen in any backup system, we recommend that if you have the available resources (namely, spare external hard drives) that you set up dual, independent backups, and, in doing so, take advantage of more than one way of backing up your system. This will prevent errors in a backup system from propagating to subsequent backups.

One strongly recommended solution that we advocate is to have both a snapshot-based system such as *Time Machine* in addition to a bootable clone system, as well using a software package such as *SuperDuper* or *Carbon Copy Cloner*. Doing this will ensure you can both boot and access your most recently changed files in the event of either data loss or hardware failure.

Keep in mind that this is not the same as making a duplicate of your current backup. Doing that may be beneficial in the event of hardware failure, but does not protect against problems with your backup software and propagating through additional backups. Instead, having two systems that run separately will ensure no problems in one backup system are carried over to the other, as well as providing a security measure in case one backup system experiences a failure. External drives are relatively cheap, and it pays to have a robust backup scheme that will ensure both hardware and software failures are taken into account.

It's worth noting that with multiple backups, one system may attempt to back up another one that you are trying to keep independent. For instance, *Time Machine* will automatically include all locally mounted volumes in its backups unless you explicitly have it ignore a specific volume (on a related side note if you're having problems with *Time Machine* not including some drives, check out our recent article on ensuring drives get included with your *Time Machine* backups). To keep backup solutions independent, be sure the drives for each backup are not included in the other one. Where you're set up to have a cloned drive and a *Time Machine* backup, the cloned drive will be backed up to the *Time Machine* drive, redundantly filling it up.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com


Migration Assistant

Migration Method

How would you like to transfer your information?

● From another Mac
You can transfer information from another Mac connected to this one.

○ From a Time Machine backup or other disk
You can transfer information from a backup disk or another startup disk attached to this Mac.

○ To another Mac
You can transfer information on this Mac to another Mac on the same network.

Whichever method you choose, Migration Assistant wil not overwrite or delete your data.

ostensibly identical, *Time Machine* archives plugged in at the same time. I'm not sure what would actually happen here, but it's probably right up there with crossing the beams.

Where is my precious missing MacBook movie?

Q I bought my new iMac on Monday and on the following day I uploaded a lengthy video into *iMovie*, with a view to editing it later. Not realising the possible consequences, I then migrated everything from my MacBook to the new iMac. To my horror I went on to find that the only movies to be found in *iMovie* were the ones that I migrated over from the MacBook. I have run downloaded software to identify (but haven't paid for recovery software) the missing files on both the new iMac and the hard drive of my camcorder – and, so far, nothing!

Are the files still there somewhere but not identifiable because they have no extensions or have I lost them forever?

Robert Paul

A The *Migration Assistant* on your Mac shouldn't ever erase any of your files. Also, it will only overwrite in situations where it is replacing an application with a newer version of the same one. In fact, if your new iMac has a user account with the same name as the old one, *Migration Assistant* won't even let you copy over the Home folder. So if *Migration Assistant* hasn't destroyed your precious video file, where on earth has it actually gone?

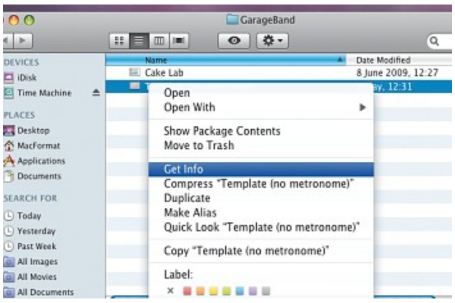
It could be possible that the default user account on your MacBook was different to the one that you had on your iMac and therefore *Migration Assistant* has copied over a new Home folder along with that user and then set this one to be the default. If your Mac is set to automatically log straight in, you might not be immediately aware of which account you are using. Have a look at the Accounts pane in *System Preferences* and see how many different users you have.

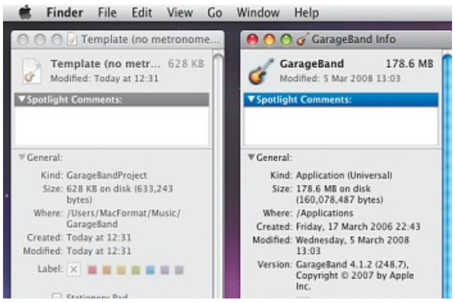
And just as a final piece of stable-door-shutting advice on this issue, I make it an absolute point of principle never to delete photos or movies from my camera on the same day as I transfer them over to the Mac. That way I can always make sure *Time Machine* has had a chance to back them up, and this saves a lot of time and bother.

QUICK TIP

⌘ Although it is listed next to the menu item, many people forget that pressing ⌘ + , is the standard shortcut keypress for any application's preferences pane. ⌘+W normally closes the pane, but this doesn't work on all apps, like *Word*, for example.

HOW TO / Copy a file icon


GarageBand
DEVICES
iDisk
Time Machine
PLACES
Desktop
MacFormat
Applications
Documents
SEARCH FOR
Today
Yesterday
Past Week
All Images
All Movies
All Documents
Name
Date Modified
Cake Lab
8 June 2009, 12:27
Open
Open With
Show Package Contents
Move to Trash
Get Info
Compress "Template (no metronome)"
Duplicate
Make Alias
Quick Look "Template (no metronome)"
Copy "Template (no metronome)"
Label:

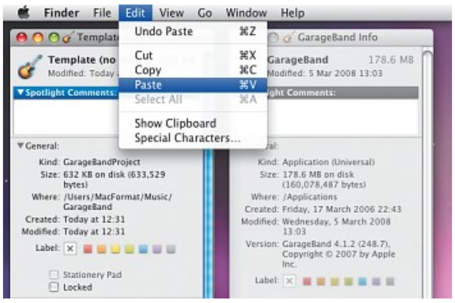

Finder
File
Edit
View
Go
Window
Help
Template (no metronome...
GarageBand Info
Spotlight Comments:
General:
Stationery Pad

Template (no metr... 628 KB
Modified: Today at 12:31

Kind: GarageBandProject
Size: 628 KB on disk (633,243 bytes)
Where: /Users/MacFormat/Music/GarageBand
Created: Today at 12:31
Modified: Today at 12:31

GarageBand 178.6 MB
Modified: 5 Mar 2008 13:03

Kind: Application (Universal)
Size: 178.6 MB on disk (160,078,487 bytes)
Where: /Applications
Created: Friday, 17 March 2006 22:43
Modified: Wednesday, 5 March 2008 13:03
Version: GarageBand 4.1.2 (248.7), Copyright © 2007 by Apple Inc.


Finder
File
Edit
View
Go
Window
Help
Undo Paste ⌘Z
Cut ⌘X
Copy ⌘C
Paste ⌘V
Select All ⌘A
Show Clipboard
Special Characters...
GarageBand Info
Spotlight Comments:
General:
Label:

Kind: GarageBandProject
Size: 632 KB on disk (633,529 bytes)
Where: /Users/MacFormat/Music/GarageBand
Created: Today at 12:31
Modified: Today at 12:31

☐ Stationery Pad
☐ Locked

GarageBand 178.6 MB
Modified: 5 Mar 2008 13:03

Kind: Application (Universal)
Size: 178.6 MB on disk (160,078,487 bytes)
Where: /Applications
Created: Friday, 17 March 2006 22:43
Modified: Wednesday, 5 March 2008 13:03
Version: GarageBand 4.1.2 (248.7), Copyright © 2007 by Apple Inc.

01 Locate the icon to change

Although it may seem like a fiddly thing to do, copying a file icon is relatively simple. First of all head over to *Finder*, and right-click on the file that has the icon you want to change. You can now select Get Info from the menu that comes up.

02 Copy the replacement

The next step is virtually identical to the previous step. Follow the same procedure for the file whose icon you want to duplicate, and then simply click on the thumbnail icon (which again you'll find located at the top). This will then become highlighted.

03 Place the icon

You can now copy over the replacement icon onto the clipboard by pressing the shortcut keys ⌘+C. The next step is again to right-click on the target file to bring up the Get Info menu and then select the thumbnail icon on the pane. Now simply press ⌘+V to copy it into place.●

QUICK TIP

If you need to turn down the volume on your Mac discreetly, press ⇧ as you volume down. This suppresses the beeps you get with each change in volume level.

Why does my Mail app keep timing out?

Q I have an original Mac mini, which I use for email, internet, photos, etc. At 75 with deafness I'm unlikely to expand into much else. I'm on dial-up until broadband improves in this area. My ISP is currently Madasafish.

Anyway, I have suddenly become unable to use *Mail* since it persists in timing out on Port 25. On the advice of Madasafish Help I have checked and reset all the boxes in Account Information, Server Options, and the like, also we tried Port 587 for a while with no improvement. Strangely enough I can get through to webmail via *Safari* but this is not nearly so convenient, or as quick, as *Mail*.

Arthur Blue

A Accessing webmail only requires you to be able to send and receive http, which is on port 80. That's an easier proposition than using SMTP and POP3 to send and receive email. If you can receive but you can't send, this is normally because port 25 is blocked. Occasionally a misconfigured firewall at your end will do this but most people don't tinker with their firewalls and port 25 is much more commonly blocked by ISPs. Outgoing port 25 access in particular is often blocked to prevent you accessing SMTP servers other than the one specified by your ISP. And this is, in turn, to prevent computers that have been hacked by viruses from being turned into zombie spambots.

That's the background covered, does any of it apply to your case? Your dial-up modem won't have firewall functionality and the OS X software firewall doesn't block outgoing ports either. It sounds as if you are using Madasafish's SMTP server and you've checked for port-blocking at their end but I am nevertheless quite sure that this is Madasafish's problem to solve. You are actually far from the first person to have emailed me over the years about this but I'm not actually sure whether this is because the Madasafish email service is particularly bad or just because the few remaining Mac dial-up customers are all clustered there, as one of the few ISPs that mention Mac support.

If you can get any kind of ADSL broadband at all in your area, I would

MACFIXIT TIPS / Use ⌘ for background windows

Various features of Mac OS X are convenient for workflow and window organisation, especially when it comes to managing windows behind the foremost one. For instance, you can scroll the contents of a background window by hovering the mouse over it and using the scroll wheel or Apple trackpads. You can also click close, minimise, or zoom windows without bringing them to the front.

In addition to these features, more aspects of background windows can be controlled by holding down ⌘. This feature was introduced in the classic OS, but has been carried over into the current *Finder* and allows for several useful functions, especially for those who clutter their screens with windows.

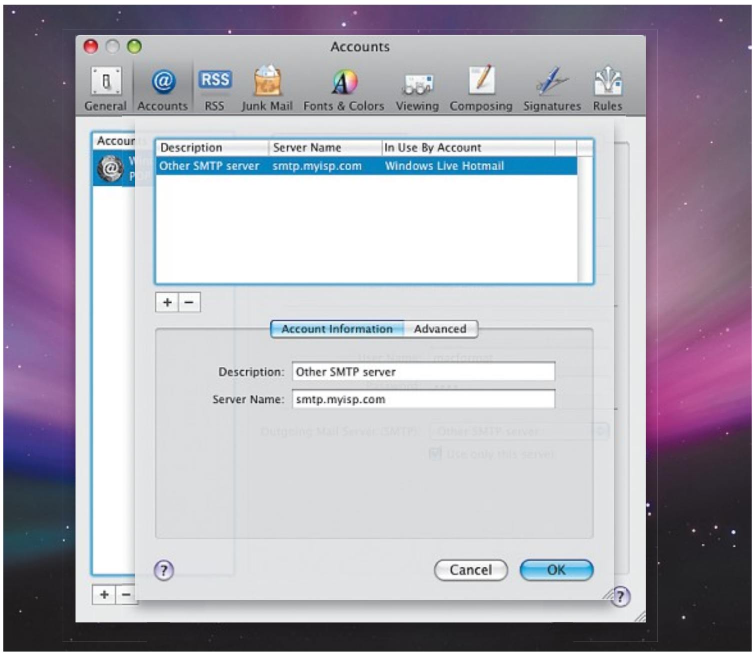
For instance, you can select or close different tabs in a *Safari* window, move a window around the screen that is currently behind others, and resize a window. You can also select and drag text from text fields and word-processing documents, and drag and drop items that are in the *Finder* to other locations, all without bringing the windows you're manipulating to the front. The universally shared functions for all windows are the moving and resizing of windows, but others such as the *Safari* tab-closing support are specific and need to be explored on a per-application basis.

In some cases such as with ⌘-selecting *Finder* sidebar items resulting in a new window being opened, ⌘-clicking may elicit another function that will switch focus of the window. However, for basic window manipulation and organisation ⌘-clicking can be useful.

Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

MacFixIt, founded in 1996 by Ted Landau, has grown into the premiere destination for users seeking resolutions to bugs and conflicts. Visit **www.macfixit.com** for the latest Mac information.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh



Description	Server Name	In Use By Account
Other SMTP server	smtp.myisp.com	Windows Live Hotmail

Description: Other SMTP server
Server Name: smtp.myisp.com

Most ISPs won't let you send emails on port 25 except through their own server.

strongly recommend you switch to that – even terrible broadband is still better than dial-up. If you can't, you should pursue your support ticket with Madasafish but also check out the alternatives at whichisp.com, while you wait.

Why does my Mac not boot from the right volume?

Q I recently purchased a Western Digital MyBook Home 1TB for backups. It is partitioned into two, and has a bootable *SuperDuper* clone on one and *Time Machine* on the other. (I know this is dodgy as if it fails I lose both, but I also have a 160GB Verbatim USB 2.0 drive, which also runs *SuperDuper* every night.) It is connected with a FireWire 800-400 cable as the iMac only has FireWire 800 and the WD drive FireWire 400.

All the backups work smoothly and if I choose the Western Digital *SuperDuper* Volume as the Startup volume in *System Preferences*, it boots just fine. However, despite all the volumes appearing in Startup Manager, the Mac will NOT boot from the *SuperDuper* volume when chosen. If I connect a USB 2.0 cable, it will boot from Startup Manager!

Dr Ken Hoyle

A You are not alone. There are lots of reports of MyBook drives failing to boot from FireWire, particularly the 1TB models. This is probably due to incorrect or duplicated FireWire IDs supplied by the drive at boot time but recent firmware updates don't seem to have corrected things.

In practical terms however, I'm not sure that this is actually that much of a problem. The *only* time you should need to access the *SuperDuper* volume is when the internal drive on your Mac fails completely. For any other data-loss scenario, *Time Machine* is a much more flexible solution. For the once or twice in your Mac's life that you might experience an internal drive failure, it isn't really too much of a hassle to hook up a USB cable and boot with that. I'd actually go further and say that if you are already running an additional *SuperDuper* backup every night on another drive, you don't actually gain much by having the *SuperDuper* volume on the Western Digital drive. Why would you choose to boot from that over the Verbatim drive? Or does the Verbatim drive not hold a complete disk clone?

The most robust solution comes from having *Time Machine* and *SuperDuper* backups on different interfaces anyway, so that you can still boot your machine and access backup data even if the FireWire interface dies. Backing up is all about keeping your eggs in different baskets. ●

On the forum

Help and advice from readers

Q I've been recommended to put my iMac to sleep every night instead of shutting it down altogether? It was said that some repairs would take place overnight – is this correct? And what advantages are there to doing this?

welshgold Joined: 18 Mar 2009 Posts: 129 Location: Aberdare, Sth Wales GB

A I think you mean the maintenance scripts that run sometime in the early hours (3am?). For these to run, though, you can only put the display to sleep, if you put the whole Mac to sleep then nothing will run, obviously. There's a separate option for display sleeping in System Preferences > Energy Saver – but a better way is to run the scripts whenever you want using a utility such as *OnyX*. To be honest, those scripts don't really do much; it's not really relevant to most people – more to do with servers really.

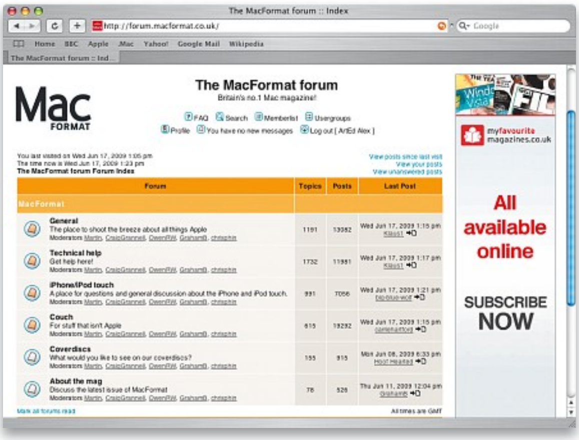
MacOS10 Joined: 20 Oct 2005 Posts: 1565 Location: Manchester, UK

Q I have just bought a G4 from eBay. I used to work on Macs ages ago, and as it was only £20 I thought I'd treat myself. It came with OS X 10.2.4 on it, although I was told it was 10.4, so I bought a wireless LAN card that only works with 10.4. I replaced the DVD-ROM with a CD-RW/DVD-RW drive (Lite-On LH 20) but the disk copy utility will not recognise the drive as a burner. These things would be simple for me to sort under Windows, but I need help with a Mac. How do I get the G4 to recognise the LH-20 ?

bigjayce Joined: 22 May 2009 Posts: 1

A You might need to install *Patchburn* (www.patchburn.de), a utility to enable the third-party drives to be recognised. But, guess what, *Patchburn* needs 10.4 or later for the most recent drives to be supported! Try the version for 10.2 if that's what you're on, but you might need to upgrade to at least 10.3 or 10.4 to get the drive working. A cheaper solution might be to buy a proper Apple SuperDrive from eBay – typically about £20-30.

MacOS10 Joined: 20 Oct 2005 Posts: 1565 Location: Manchester, UK



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Couch For stuff that isn't Apple Moderators Martin, CraigGrannell, OwenFW, GrahamB, chrisphin	615	19292	Wed Jun 17, 2009 1:15 pm [illegible]
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About the mag Discuss the latest issue of MacFormat Moderators Martin, CraigGrannell, OwenFW, GrahamB, chrisphin	78	526	Thu Jun 11, 2009 12:04 pm GrahamB

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http://forum.macformat.co.uk

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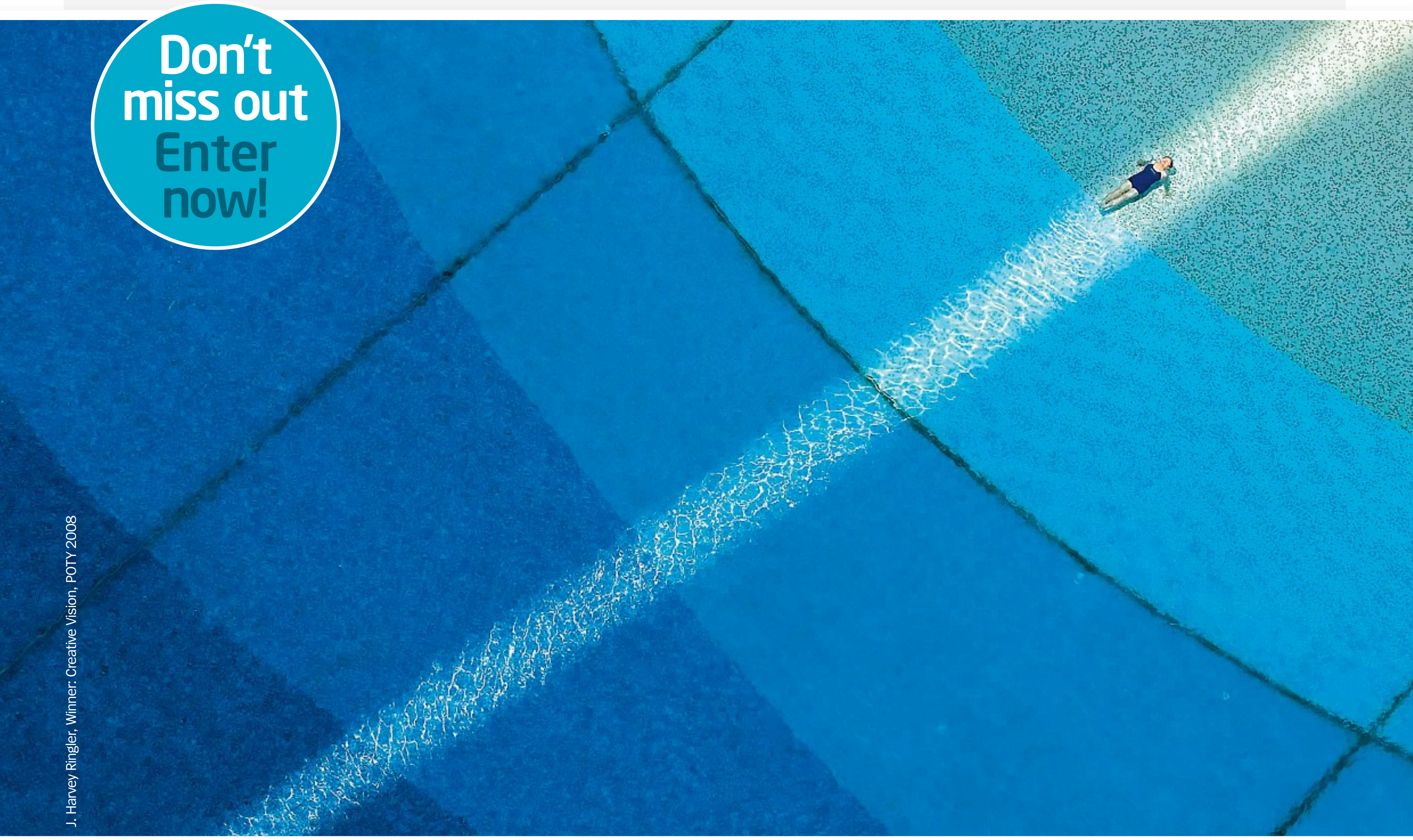

J. Harvey Ringler, Winner: Creative Vision, POTY 2008

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"With Apple's style and strength, they're a real winner..."

LATEST MACBOOK PRO LAPTOPS REVIEWED P80

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Reviews

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Ian Osborne
Reviews Editor

Here at *MacFormat*, we never shy away from criticising Apple when it fails to listen to its customers, so it's only fair we praise the company when they do listen. Huge sections of the Mac community were annoyed when the FireWire port was dropped from the 13-inch unibody MacBook. Apple took this on board, and reintroduced it with its new 13-inch laptop, as reviewed on page 80-81, which is now part of the Pro range.

But those interested in buying a new 15-inch MacBook Pro (also covered on page 80-81) might have mixed feelings about Apple dropping the ExpressCard slot. Is this a deal-breaker for you? Does Phil Schiller's claims ring true when he said less than 1% of owners used it anyway, and the majority of those who did installed an SD card reader?

We've no complaints about the MacBook Pro's new internal battery. Sure, you have to get it replaced when it wears out, but it does last around three times longer than a standard battery. And it can go for seven hours on a single charge. Now that's what we call progress...

>> OUR LOGOS

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Used in our Group Tests, MacFormat Winner indicates the product that we feel stands out.

This logo indicates there are either test versions or files associated with the review on the disc.

RATINGS EXPLAINED: ★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★☆ Very good ★★★☆☆ Good ★★☆☆☆ Adequate ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

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CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Apple, Inc
www.apple.com/uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/611805

SPECIFICATIONS

MacBook Pro 13-inch

Processor: 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo **RAM:** 4GB **Hard disk:** 250GB **Ports:** 2x USB 2.0, 1x FireWire 800, SD card slot

MacBook Pro 15-inch

Processor: 2.8GHz **RAM:** 4GB **Hard disk:** 500GB **Ports:** 2x USB 2.0, 1x FireWire 800, SD card slot

For full specs, see the Buyers' Guide, starting on page 113.

PROS & CONS

MacBook Pro 13-inch

- ⊕ FireWire port is back
- ⊕ Excellent screen upgrade
- ⊕ Seven-hour internal battery
- ⊖ No discrete graphics

MacBook Pro 15-inch

- ⊕ Excellent screen upgrade
- ⊕ Seven-hour internal battery
- ⊕ Speedy discrete graphics
- ⊖ A little expensive

VERDICT

MacBook Pro 13-inch

★★★★½

"A welcome return for the FW port, but should have a discrete graphics processor."

MacBook Pro 15-inch

★★★★★

"A good upgrade, but some may miss the ExpressCard, and it's still expensive."

What an update! The new features and benefits that were introduced back in January for the top-of-the-range 17-inch model have filtered down throughout the MacBook Pro range (a line-up that also now includes the newly promoted 13-inch unibody MacBook). Yet prices have gone down, making the new MacBook Pros excellent value for money.

The 13-inch and 15-inch MacBook Pros now include Apple's innovative internal battery. By making it non-removable, freeing up the space previously taken up by connectors and hatches, Apple was able to fit a bigger, stronger battery without adding to the size or weight of the laptop. Expect seven hours' use on a single charge. When it wears out it must be replaced professionally (Apple Stores charge £99 for the two models reviewed here). Yet it lasts for around five years (the equivalent of 1000 charges), which is three times as long as a standard battery, so this isn't a massive drawback.

Then there's the screen. Apple's new 13-inch and 15-inch MacBook Pros boast an improved LED-backlit display with a 60% greater colour gamut. When comparing Leopard's Aurora desktop image on the new MacBook Pro with an older Apple laptop, the difference is amazing. The colours look more intense, the gradients much smoother and the viewing angles more comprehensive.

The expansion ports have undergone an overhaul too. The ExpressCard slot has been removed from the 15-inch model, and an SD card slot added to all the new MacBook Pros. Some may miss the versatility offered by the ExpressCard, but as Apple's Phil Schiller said at the Worldwide Developer's Conference, less than 1% of users were actually using it and most of those that did had installed an ExpressCard SD card reader. Dropping the FireWire port for the late-2008 13-inch aluminium unibody MacBook proved an extremely unpopular move, so Apple has brought it back for this new 13-inch MacBook Pro. An illuminated keyboard is now standard across the range too; previously it was only available on the higher-end 13-inch models and above.

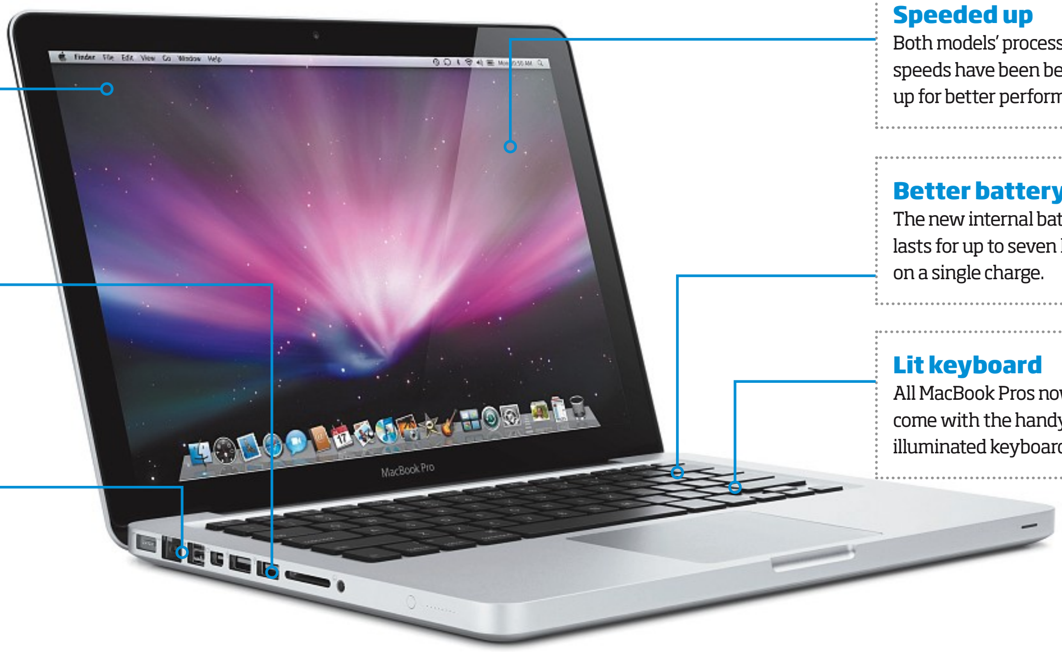
> *"Dropping the FireWire port for the 13-inch aluminium unibody MacBook proved an unpopular move, so Apple brought it back"*

Speeded up

As you'd expect from a largely incremental upgrade, processor speeds have been beefed up. The 13-inch model is available in 2.26GHz and 2.53GHz configurations, with the 15-inch version boasting 2.53GHz, 2.66GHz or 2.8GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processors. The extra speed really showed in our benchmarking tests, though interestingly, all three new Apple laptops we reviewed this issue performed identically in our *iTunes* encoding test. It seems that the optical drive is the limiting factor, and not the processor speed.

The new and improved seven-hour battery has not made the MacBook Pro any bulkier.

HOW TO / What's new for the 13-inch and 15-inch MacBook Pro?



Improved screen

The improved LED-backlit display boasts a 60% greater colour gamut. Colours are richer and the gradients are smoother.

SD card reader

The 15-inch model's ExpressCard slot has disappeared. You'll find that both Macs now have an SD card reader instead.

Return of FireWire

The FireWire port is retained on the 15-inch MBP and returned to the 13-inch model.

Speeded up

Both models' processor speeds have been beefed up for better performance.

Better battery

The new internal battery lasts for up to seven hours on a single charge.

Lit keyboard

All MacBook Pros now come with the handy illuminated keyboard.

The new MacBook Pros performed very well in our *Doom 3* test too, tackling the game's highest graphics settings with ease. At slightly south of 40 frames per second it was eminently playable on the 2.53GHz 13-inch model, but on the 15-inch MacBook Pro, it really came into its own. The higher-end laptop's discrete graphics chip lifted the frame rate from just under 42fps to a blisteringly fast 86.4fps. The 13-inch version lacks a discrete graphics processor. As it's now part of the Pro range, perhaps it shouldn't.

A drop in price

With all these extra features, you'd be forgiven for expecting a price rise. Instead, there's been an across-the-board price drop, with the new models costing up to £100 less than their last-generation equivalents. At entry level, 13-inch MacBook Pro costs £899, down from £929. The cheapest 15-inch model costs £1,299, down from £1,369. It has to be said the two models tested here are still a little expensive, but you're getting a lot of Mac for your money and the bang-per-buck ratio is moving in the right direction.

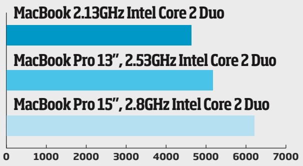
There really isn't much to criticise here. For some reason, out of the box the new MacBook Pros are downgraded to the slower, 1.5Gb per second SATA protocol, which is bizarre considering the MacBook reviewed over the page moved in the opposite direction. But a firmware upgrade which restored the Pros to the faster, 3.0Gb/sec SATA II speeds was soon released, and unless you plan to replace your hard disc drive with a speedy solid-state drive, you'd never notice the difference.

> *"The two models on test are a little expensive, but you're getting a lot of Mac and the bang-per-buck ratio is moving in the right direction"*

Combining the unique style and strength of Apple's sleek aluminium unibody casing together with a gorgeous new screen (and some exciting component upgrades), the new MacBook Pros are a real winner. And at the reasonable prices of £1,149 and £1,699 respectively they truly represent a substantial investment, especially in these current recession-hit times. Suffice to say, a solid performance increase coupled with a significant price drop can only be welcomed.

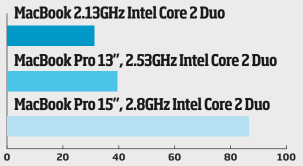
Ian Osborne

BENCHMARKS / How do the MacBook Pros stack up?



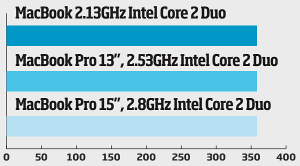
Cinebench (CBs)

Measuring CPU and GPU performance, Cinebench reports its results as a single figure. Multi-core performance quoted.



Doom 3 frame rates (FPS)

Tested using *Doom 3*'s 'timedemo 1' routine, set at 1,024x768 with settings at Ultra. Frames per second quoted. Higher is better.



iTunes encoding (Seconds)

A timed test using the latest version of *iTunes*, ripping an audio CD at 128kb/sec AAC, auto sample rate, no VBR. Lower is better.

>> NOTEBOOK COMPUTER

Apple MacBook 2.13GHz

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£749 Apple's entry-level laptop gets an incremental upgrade

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Apple
www.apple.com/uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/611311

SPECIFICATIONS

Processor: Intel Core 2 Duo 2.13GHz **RAM:** 2GB 800MHz PC2-6400 **Hard disk:** 160GB, Ports: 2x USB 2.0, 1x FireWire 400 **Optical drive:** Slot-loading SuperDrive, 4x write, 8x read **Display:** 13.3-inch glossy widescreen LCD **Graphics:** NVIDIA GeForce 9400M **Dimensions:** 2.75 x 32.5 x 22.7 cm **Weight:** 2.3kg

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ FireWire port retained
- ⊕ Useful component upgrades
- ⊕ Affordable MacBook
- ⊕ iLife '09 preloaded
- ⊕ Classy as ever
- ⊖ Not a massive step up

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A solid, if unremarkable, upgrade for the entry-level MacBook."

This mid-2009 version of Apple's 13.3-inch polycarbonate-bodied MacBook offers an incremental upgrade for the shiny notebook we've known and loved since May 2006. It might not be streets ahead of the revision released in January, but it's another step forward for a machine that's come on a long way in the last three years.

But what does this new revision offer over its predecessor? Unsurprisingly, its Intel Core 2 Duo processor has been upgraded, from 2.0GHz to 2.13GHz. This speed boost is reflected in our Xbench CPU benchmarking test, where it scored 118.98 against its predecessor's 91. Not an increase that will set the world alight, but a significant step forwards.

Beefed-up RAM

The MacBook's onboard RAM has been beefed up too. You still get 2GB, but it's now 800MHz, up from 667MHz. Hard drive capacity has also increased from 120GB to 160GB. The frontside bus speed remains the same at 1066MHz, as does the graphics processor, an nVidia GeForce 9400M using 256MB RAM, shared with the main memory. Its AirPort, optical drive and overall weight remain the same too.

As you'd expect from an Apple laptop, the glossy TFT screen is gorgeous. Unfortunately, it's not the same one they're utilising in the 13-inch MacBook Pro, with the 60% increase in colour gamut, but even so, it's very impressive. With a 1280x800-pixel resolution, widescreen format and great viewing angles, it's perfect for all your multimedia viewing as well as surfing the web and general computer-orientated uses.

The new MacBook - no radical changes, but some welcome component upgrades.

"A surprising improvement is the beefed-up SATA interface, which connects the computer to the hard drive. It's now SATA II"

Something we're glad hasn't been changed is the expansion ports. With its removal from the October 2008 release of the 13-inch aluminium MacBook and the iPods moving to USB for charging, the future seemed bleak for the FireWire format. But it seems reports of its death were greatly exaggerated. This model still has a FireWire 400 port alongside a pair of USB 2.0s, a move that will be welcomed by those who still own FireWire peripherals.

A surprising improvement is the beefed-up SATA interface, which connects the computer to the hard drive. It's now SATA II. As mentioned over the page, you won't notice the extra turn of speed unless you replace your HDD with a good-quality solid-state drive, but it's an improvement nonetheless.

Good performer

With the component upgrade, the white polycarbonate MacBook out-performed the newly discontinued entry-level aluminium unibody MacBook (see the benchmark table on page 81). Naturally, this situation was never going to last. Not long after its release, the 13-inch unibody MacBook joined the MacBook Pro range, and also enjoyed across-the-board component upgrades. Go back a page to see how the new 13- and 15-inch MacBook Pros shape up, and how they compare to this model in our benchmarking tests.

Despite the 13-inch unibody model joining the MacBook Pro range, Apple has no intention of abandoning this polycarbonate MacBook. Apple assures us it's popular as an entry-level machine, and will remain part of its product range for a long time.

Ian Osborne

>> SNOW LEOPARD / Keep up to date

With OS X Snow Leopard due for release in September, you might be tempted to keep your money in your pocket until the autumn before treating yourself to a new Mac. But thanks to Apple's Up To Date programme, there's no need to wait.

If you buy a Mac between now and September, including the MacBook and MacBook Pros covered this issue, you can upgrade to Snow Leopard for a mere £7.95 postage and handling charge. Just order online, and a shiny new copy of OS X 10.6 will be posted to you as soon as it's released. Visit **www.apple.com/uk/macosx/uptodate** to find out more details.

>> MOBILE PHONE

Apple iPhone 3GS 32GB

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£538 (Pay and Go/Pay Monthly) Better graphics, an improved camera and a larger 32GB capacity

The first thing you notice about the iPhone 3GS is its speed. Thanks to a faster processor it feels much snappier than the 3G. You'll notice apps opening very quickly and in a side-by-side test over WiFi, the BBC news site loaded in seven seconds, compared to 12.5 seconds on the iPhone 3G and more than 14 seconds on the original iPhone. The battery life is much improved too, meaning we could last a whole day without going low on battery. Interestingly, Apple isn't claiming any increase in talk time over the previous model, but video, music playback and web browsing all show improvements.

3G
9:42 AM
Tuesday
9
Messages
Calendar
Photos
Camera
YouTube
Stocks
280
Maps
73°
Weather
Voice Memos
Notes
Clock
Calculator
Settings
iTunes
App Store
Compass
Phone
Mail
Safari
iPod
iPhone
32GB

The phone itself looks identical to the previous iPhone 3G model – not great for show-offs!

Better camera

The iPhone 3G was rightly criticised for its poor 2.0 megapixel fixed-focus camera without a flash. The new iPhone 3GS still lacks a flash, but brings a 3MP-resolution camera with a macro lens to the party. Focussing is automatic, but you can tap on the area of the screen and it focuses also. The white balance and exposure are automatically adjusted too, which is pretty clever. The extra megapixels help enormously in picture quality, but taking pictures in low light levels remain a problem. The macro lens takes good close-up shots too, without the blurring that afflicted previous generations, but it's still only comparable to a camera that some three-year-old mobile phones have.

> *"The iPhone 3GS is video capable and can edit… drag the start and end points of your clip, tap the trim button and you're done"*

More importantly, the iPhone 3GS is now video capable. And the really clever thing is that it has capabilities for editing video on the phone as well – just drag the start and end points of your clip and tap the trim button and you're done. It all works surprisingly well. Once you've shot your video you can upload it straight to your MobileMe gallery, YouTube, or email or MMS it. Bear in mind that it takes a long time to send video, even on a WiFi connection, so you're only going to want to send very short clips. Uploading to YouTube was flawless, MobileMe (perhaps slightly predictably) proved less so.

The new *Compass* app is, as you'd expect from Apple, gorgeous to look at, but probably not worth getting all that excited about. In contrast, the new oil-resistant screen is fantastic – it genuinely works – just wipe the screen on a piece of clothing and all the smudgy fingerprints are gone. Also new to the 3GS is Voice Control. Press and hold the Home button until you hear a beep then call a contact from your address book by saying "Call Graham", for example. Voice Control also works in the iPod app, where you can request music by voice command, however, this can be a bit hit and miss with exotic band names.

For first-timers

If you're a potential first-time iPhone owner who hasn't made the jump yet, then the time is now – the iPhone 3GS has finally got everything you'll need – but the real question is, is it worth paying to get out of an existing iPhone 3G contract to get better camera and video recording? On balance, probably not – you get almost all the new features by upgrading to the 3.0 software for free. 3G owners would be better off waiting until your contact expires and then upgrading, unless of course, you really want to shoot video on your iPhone, because it does it really well.
Graham Barlow

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Apple
www.apple.com/uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/611313

SPECIFICATIONS

Capacity: 32GB/16GB flash drive **Connectivity:** Wi-Fi (802.11b/g) Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR **Talk time:** up to 12 hours on 2G, up to 5 hours on 3G **Standby time:** up to 300 hours **Internet:** up to 5 hours on 3G, up to 9 hours on WiFi

PROS & CONS

- + Video recording
- + Lovely tap-to-focus feature
- + Improved camera
- + Much faster
- − 3.0 software a free upgrade
- − Camera still a problem

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Still the best mobile phone on the market by far, but iPhone 3G owners can probably live without upgrading for now."

>>iPHONE BATTERY EXTENDER

Mophie Juice Pack Air

£63 Sick of your iPhone's battery dying on you? Here's a solution

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Mophie
www.mophieuk.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/611347

SPECIFICATIONS

Battery capacity: 1200mAh
Size: 12.5x6.6x1.9cm **Weight:** 75.4g
Other: Micro-USB cable included

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Slim, convenient design
- ⊕ Intelligent power management
- ⊖ Disappointing build quality
- ⊖ Only for iPhone 3G and 3GS

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"Adds bulk to the iPhone, but a boon for travelling."

The problem with the iPhone is that it makes itself so indispensable, and is such a pleasure to use, that the battery has been known to run out before the day is over. (The battery capacity itself isn't especially poor; it's just that you use the thing so much.)

Rather than try to find a plug for a mid-afternoon recharge, we've taken to carrying extra battery packs with us when we know we're heading off on business. We were big fans of Mophie's first battery sled – a kind of cover that you slid the iPhone into – so were keen to see what this new version brought.

It's not as capacious as the original – and still available – Juice Pack; it's rated at 1200mAh, while the original packed in 1800mAh. It is, though, slimmer, and rather than being about three quarters of the length of the iPhone – leaving the top of the iPhone sticking out, unprotected – it cocoons your entire iPhone in plastic. The case splits apart for fitting.

Battery performance is good. Its claim of almost doubling the iPhone 3G battery life is pretty much bang on, and it has a switch to turn charging on and off.

But we must confess to being disappointed with the build quality. It's not just that our first sample shattered – this just happened with an early batch, apparently; Mophie will replace for free if you're affected – but that joins, seams and finishing seem a little rough.

Christopher Phin

The Juice Pack Air almost doubles battery life, but not for all iPhones.

>>DOCKING STATION/WIRELESS STREAMER

RothDock

£99 Stream your music while charging your iPod or iPhone

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Roth
www.rothaudio.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/611361

SPECIFICATIONS

Compatibility: all iPods with 30-pin connectors, iPhone and iPhone 3G and 3GS

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ No configuration necessary
- ⊕ Good with iPhone and iPod
- ⊕ Handy remote control
- ⊖ No video streaming

VERDICT

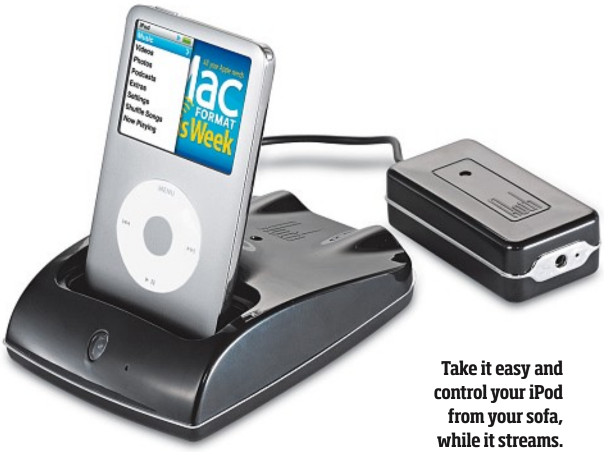
★★★★☆

"We love the ease of use but want dock adaptors."

You can buy an inexpensive cable to connect your iPod to your stereo, but the RothDock offers a more elegant solution. It's a docking station that wirelessly streams your music from your iPod or iPhone to a receiver connected to your stereo via a 3.5mm line-in cable or supplied RCA connector, while it charges your iPod at the same time. It's a neat solution because it also gives you a remote control, so you can change tracks from the comfort of your sofa (if you have line of site to the base station). There's no configuration needed – just plug it in. On the downside, it uses two wall sockets since you need to plug both the wireless base station and the wireless receiver in.

Everything works well – sound quality is great, there are no dropouts. The remote can also be used to navigate the menu system on your iPod, so you can rate tracks, change volume, etc, all with ease. It has a range of 10m, which should be enough to stream to a stereo in another room. Our only niggle is that there are no dock adaptors in the box for the various iPods (although you can buy them separately). Smaller iPods are okay, but the iPhone wobbles. We occasionally got a "This product is not designed for iPhone" message when connecting our iPhone, but as this only appeared intermittently it could've been caused by the wobbly connection, as it worked fine in our iPhone test.

Graham Barlow



Take it easy and control your iPod from your sofa, while it streams.

SHURE
PG27
USB
MIC GAIN

There's not an awful lot of internal shielding going on, so a separate pop shield is recommended.

>> USB MICROPHONE

Shure PG27 USB microphone

£200 Take a microphone and mixer into the shower? Not us!

Adding a high-end microphone to your Mac set-up is not always straightforward. Grab the right combination of leads and converters and, yes, you can shove any passive microphone into the mic input. But passive mics won't always give you the range and versatility you want, and live monitoring through software is very difficult to achieve (read: impossible) without any latency. The traditional solution when working with active microphones is to add in a separate mixing console to supply that power, an appropriate XLR input and live monitoring through dedicated hardware. Highly expensive, and impractical if you're on the move.

Shure's PG27 represents the new breed of USB-based active microphones, drawing both power and connectivity from a built-in USB interface. Many of the functions of the mixing console have been transferred onto the microphone itself – you'll find volume and gain controls, a -20db cut for noisy sources and, most importantly, on-mic live monitoring, which cuts out the usual latency that software monitoring suffers. Monitoring is important when using condenser mics that have a limited range of perfect reception, so plugging in headphones helps you make sure you hit the spot.

> *"Route your Mac's playback straight to the headphone jack to save switching your headphones"*

Getting it set up is easy, and its monitoring circuit shows up as an additional output, meaning you can route your Mac's playback straight to the PG27's headphone jack to save switching your headphones over.

It's arguable how practical the PG27 would be for portable use given that you need a mic stand to go with it, but it does cut out the need for a mixing console, so you can record in the field with no external power. It is also a shame that using multiple simultaneous sound sources is difficult in OS X – this is only a solution if you just use one microphone at a time. And if you do, we can't recommend it enough.

Alex Cox

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Shure
www.shure.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/611534

SPECIFICATIONS

Attenuation: 0db /-20db switchable **Frequency response:** 20Hz-20kHz **Pattern:** Cardioid polar

PROS & CONS

- + Quick and easy to set up
- + Great range of sound
- + On-mic monitoring capability
- – Single microphone use only

VERDICT

★★★★½

"If you're after a single mic set-up, it's fantastic."

>> HDD CADDY

Spire HandyBook

£17 www.spirecoolers.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/611958

01 Designed for a 2.5-inch SATA drive the HandyBook hard drive enclosure opens like a book at the push of a button. And if you're likely to do a lot of drive swapping, you can fit your bare drive without screws or fix it into place with the supplied screws and screwdriver. You also get a stand, USB and eSATA cables, and a USB-to-5V lead in case your USB port isn't enough. However, its plastic construction probably couldn't take many knocks, so it's probably better off staying on your desk.
Ian Osborne

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Excellent for convenience, less so for robustness."

>> BLUETOOTH MOUSE

Targus Laser Mouse

$50 (£35) www.targus.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/611974

02 This new Targus mouse is easy to set up, feels great to use and looks good alongside your Mac. Slightly bigger than Apple's Mighty Mouse, it glides over the desk beautifully. The buttons offer just the right degree of resistance, and can be used for *Dashboard* and *Exposé*, even without installing the driver software (an optional download).

Its 'touch scroll' feature allows 360-degree scrolling but is too sensitive unless you set the scrolling speed to slow, but gets the job done thereafter.
Laurence Cable

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A great-value alternative to the Mighty Mouse."

>> EARBUDS

Shure SE115 Earphones

£70 www.shure.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/611978

03 Shure's SE115 sound-isolating earbuds promise a much-improved bass response… and they deliver. Their second-gen Dynamic MicroSpeakers offer an improvement over the SE110s, with the extra bass definition contributing to a richer, more rounded overall sound. Sound isolation is good, with little overspill and no intruding background noise. And the bass doesn't swamp the rest of the output. The SE115s offer a warm, rounded sound across the board.
Ian Osborne

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Improved bass caps a solid performance all round."

>> POWER ADAPTOR

Macally PowerPal

£10 www.macally-europe.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/611989

04 If you want to charge your iPod or iPhone away from your computer, you'll need a USB power adaptor, and an electrical plug to which you can connect a USB cable. For only a tenner, Macally's PowerPal features four interchangeable plug heads, covering UK, Europe, USA and Australia. It also functions as a universal adaptor, allowing you to insert one type of plug into another type of socket. It also comes with a USB iPod cable, a spare fuse, and a handy bag to keep everything in one place.
Ian Osborne

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Superb value for money, and a real boon to travellers."

cokin
A123
Nikon
The magazine for today's photographer
Win £10,000! World's best photo competition
Digital Camera
The A-Z of travel
Improve your summer holiday shots
FREE CD-ROM!
20 WAYS TO GET FASTER WITH PHOTOSHOP
Top-quality techniques
Create fantastic animal, portrait & infrared pics
Shoot your Best-ever photos
Camera skills for killer close-ups
Creative tricks that really work
Easy steps to photo success!
PLUS! MARTIN PARR on shooting at the beach
Must-read tests
Pentax K7, macro lenses top-spec camera phones
Studio made simple
Discover the right way to set up and use pro lights
FREE CD!
NEW! CANON & NIKON DSLRs
Learn Photoshop!
Master exposure!
Caplio R7
LEE Filters
Manfrotto
The essential piece of kit for today's photographer!
For more info visit www.digitalcameramagazine.co.uk

>> WEB DESIGN APPLICATION

The Escapers Flux 2.20

£40 British developers take a second crack at conquering the web design market

CONTACTS

Developer: The Escapers
www.theescapers.com/flux2
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/611910

REQUIREMENTS

OS: Mac OS X 10.5+

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Significantly improved UI
- ⊕ Plenty of scope and control
- ⊖ Some sluggish UI components
- ⊖ Code output issues

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

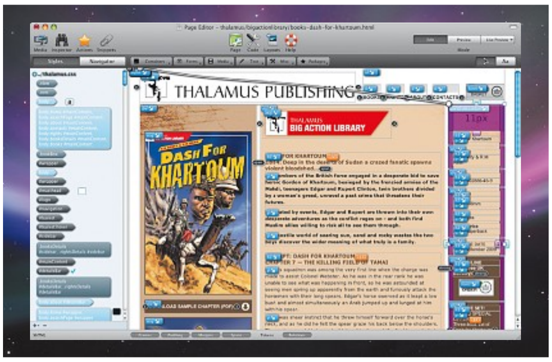
"Worth a look for amateur web designers."

An issue back, we weren't impressed by *Flux*, finding it slow, buggy and clunky. This update to the web design tool addresses most of our concerns. The result is an app that's still far from perfect but nonetheless is improved from the first version.

On firing up *Flux*, you can start from scratch (also utilising built-in boilerplates for page columns), base a design around a built-in template, or edit an existing site. *Flux* no longer demolishes existing designs, although it does muddy code with inline styles when changes are made. In terms of interface, the main view builds on the promise of its predecessor, with visual clues regarding element padding, margins and relationships. Context menus are well used throughout for making changes, and the revised toolbar makes adding elements simpler. Code is accessible and editable for any selected element.

In general, *Flux* feels snappier, although the Site Manager remains sluggish. While bugs lurk, none are deal breakers, and with more polish, this feature-rich app could even give *Dreamweaver* a run for its money. As it is, *Flux* sits awkwardly between consumer and professional apps, not catering fully to either audience. However, while this version's code shortcomings mean it's still unsuitable for pros, the upgrade is a good choice if you've outgrown *iWeb* or don't get on with *RapidWeaver*.

Barnaby Page



Flux's Edit view provides useful visual feedback for your projects.

>> BACKUP SOFTWARE

APP4MAC Twin 1.01

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£25 The backup app that offers safety for your data to FTP, SFTP, WebDAV, Amazon S3 and disk

CONTACTS

Developer: APP4MAC
www.app4mac.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/611922

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: PowerPC G4, G5 and Intel processors **OS:** Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard (ready for Snow Leopard)

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Easy to use
- ⊕ Back up to multiple destinations
- ⊕ Multiple backup routines
- ⊕ Runs in background

VERDICT

★★★★★

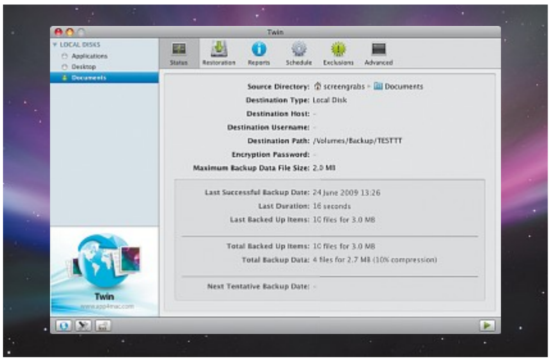
"In essence, it's the perfect backup tool."

Backing up isn't hard to do, but many of us don't do it. There's lots of software out there encouraging you to keep a safe copy of your data. Even with the built-in *Time Machine* software there's still a reluctance to go belt and braces without data. However, the advice is and will always be the same; make a backup then make another and you'll never be sorry. *Twin* is a backup utility whose aim is to be as flexible as possible.

Setting up a backup is simple with an automated routine that lets you select either the entire hard disk or a folder within it. You can send data to a local disk, another computer, your iDisk or even an FTP server. Additionally you can use the Amazon S3 service and others like it too. This gives you the option of creating both onsite and offsite backups, which is an effective approach to take if you're looking to keep your data extra safe. You can encrypt the data too, so it's secure

You can set any number of backup routines, using the interface and to edit or run them, simply select the desired backup and choose the appropriate options. Scheduling is flexible with backup on launch, every hour and daily. And if the server goes offline your data will back up when it's up again. Making backup software simple is easy, making it compelling enough to use regularly is a different matter. It's not often that an app impresses us quite this much, but *Twin* really did.

Christopher Brennan



Source Directory: screengrabs ▸ Documents
Destination Type: Local Disk
Destination Host: -
Destination Username: -
Destination Path: /Volumes/Backup/TESTTT
Encryption Password: -
Maximum Backup Data File Size: 2.0 MB
Last Successful Backup Date: 24 June 2009 13:26
Last Duration: 16 seconds
Last Backed Up Items: 10 files for 3.0 MB
Total Backed Up Items: 10 files for 3.0 MB
Total Backup Data: 4 files for 2.7 MB (10% compression)
Next Tentative Backup Date: -

The Twin interface is simple to use even when multiple backups are set.

>> ANIMATION SOFTWARE

Anime Studio Debut 6

$50 (£31) What sort of animation will you get at this price? We head back to the drawing board to find out

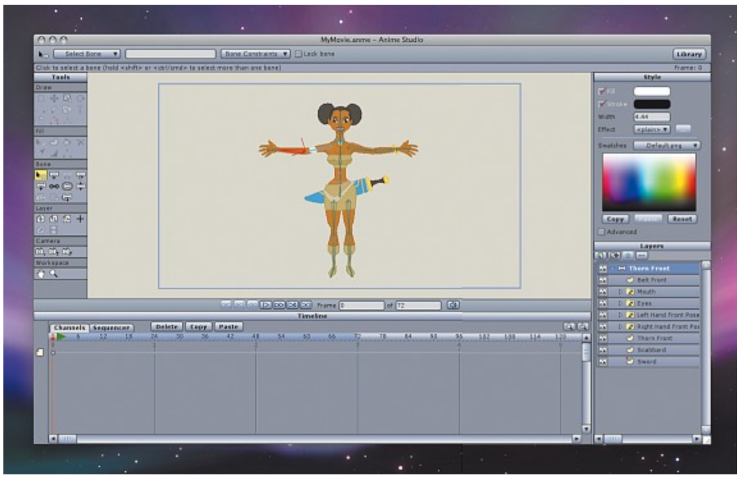
Like its stablemate *Manga Studio*, reviewed in *MacFormat 208*, *Anime Studio Debut* packs an advanced feature set into a highly accessible mainstream product. Rather than creating cell-driven comics, though, *Anime Studio* is designed to bring your drawings to life, adding sound and movement to your storytelling, using simple tools and an easy-to-grasp workflow.

Projects begin at the drawing board stage. You're presented with the option to begin with an existing image file or draw directly onto the canvas using brush, pen and paint tools. In use, the vector-based drawing tools are responsive, and anyone used to digital art applications will find the learning curve shallow and straightforward.

Like *Manga Studio*, one of *Anime Studio Debut*'s strengths is the range of bundled offerings, including tutorial and starter files, together with a character, object and animation library. Making use of the library is a great way to get to grips with the app, and terrific fun to boot. Simply drag and drop a character or object from the library to the stage and its predefined parameters pop up for editing. There are various editing options, depending on the type of element selected, which include fully rigged characters, objects, props, action words with auto-lip synched actions all-ready set up, and sound effects and motion files.

"The range of bundled offerings include tutorial and starter files, together with a character, object and animation library"

Once your scene is ready to be brought to life, you can use a combination of *Anime Studio Debut*'s animation tools. The main port of call is the Bones tool, which essentially creates a skeleton with key hinge points that can then be key-framed. In practice, the Bones tool is simple to use. Select a point and drag it to its next position. In default mode, proportions and positions of the limb you're moving remain intact, but can be edited individually for perspective changes and advanced movements. In short, this sums up what *Anime Studio Debut* does so well; keep the basics simple, but offer the option of more complex animating.



Anime Studio Debut 6 has proved to be an impressive and highly intuitive animation application.

As well as the Bones tool, *Anime Studio Debut* offers two further options for animating, which can be used in conjunction with the Bones tool: Animate Points, whereby points on a vector outline can be manipulated directly, as you would in *Illustrator* or any other vector application; and through a new feature called Switch Layers.

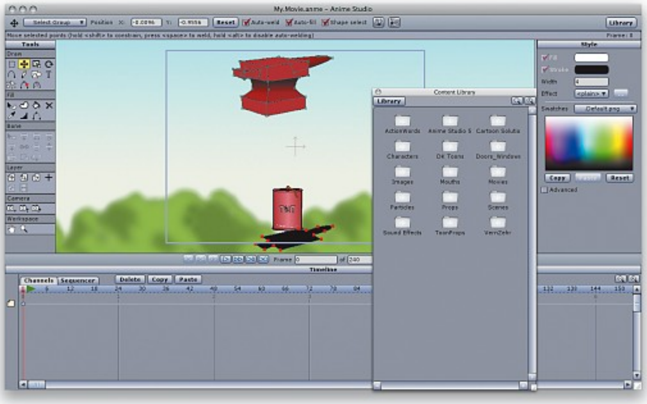
Switch Layers makes animating particularly easy. Like *Flash CS4*, Switch Layers work across a timeline, grouping key movements together. So, for example, once your character has established the first few steps of its walk, a longer walk and turning movements can quickly be added by extending the Switch Layer. This function works for lip-synching too, allowing each graphical layer to be applied to certain mouth shapes for different sounds – a process made easier by the library sounds carrying predefined animations.

As well as more than 200 pre-rigged sample animations, the ability to import .MOV and .AVI files means animated characters can be embedded in existing videos, or you can utilise the offerings of its community following to download background animations and object

Once your animation is complete, a selection of preset effects – encompassing glows, shadows and basic lighting rigs – can be applied. Again, these are drag and drop from the library. You can then output your movie as an FLV, .MOV or .AVI file, or upload it directly to YouTube.

Tom Dennis

A very well-stocked library contains predesigned characters, animations and objects, all of which can be added, animated and edited.



CONTACTS

Developer: Smith Micro

Web: www.smithmicro.com

Latest price on TechRadar

www.techradar.com/611940

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: PowerPC G4/G5 500MHz or greater **OS:** Mac OS X 10.4 or later **RAM:** 256MB RAM **Other:** 250MB free hard drive space, 1024x768 resolution, 16-bit colour display

PROS & CONS

- + Character and prop library
- + Excellent Bones tool
- + Sound library
- + Output to AVI, FLV, MOV
- + Bundled tutorials/starter files
- – No texture mapping/lighting tools

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Few competitors offer Anime Studio Debut's straightforward workflow and editing options at such a great price."

>> FILE-FINDING UTILITY

HoudahSpot 2.5.2

Mac FORMAT On the disc

$25 (£15) For those who really need it, HoudahSpot super-charges file searching

CONTACTS

Developer: Houdah Software
www.houdah.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/611546

REQUIREMENTS

OS: Mac OS X 10.5

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Comprehensive search criteria
- ⊕ Performs searches by exclusion
- ⊖ Will be overkill for many users
- ⊖ Complex interface

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"Many users will find its features unnecessary."

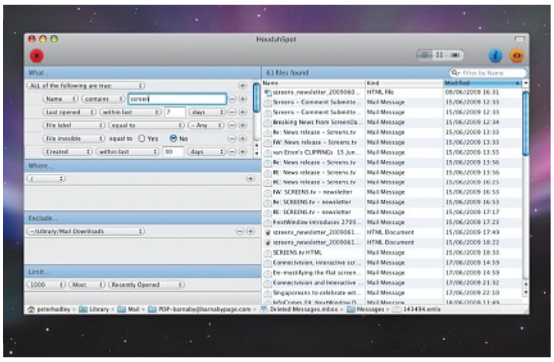
HoudahSpot builds upon Apple's Spotlight engine to provide more detailed and accessible search facilities. You can hunt for files by criteria including name, textual content, kind of file, dates last opened and modified, disk location and a lot more.

Other features include finding by example – letting you drag a found file into the criteria to narrow your found set to those which match it in a particular respect – and searching by exclusion, in which you define what you're looking for by what it isn't.

As with any file-finding app, *HoudahSpot*'s value depends on how much data you have, how well it's organised, and how much you've forgotten about.

Using a small number of files in familiar locations on a regular basis, we didn't actually need most of its functionality and often resorted to good old ⌘+F. It also occasionally failed to find files that undoubtedly existed, though this is much more likely explained by an interface which makes it too easy to overlook inadvertently-applied criteria than by an actual failure to locate files. Oddly-written, somewhat jargony help doesn't assist in that respect.

If you frequently find yourself trying to pin down files of which you have only a sketchy memory, *HoudahSpot* may work for you. But if you're happy with *Finder*'s search functionality, you don't need to add Houdah's.
Barnaby Page



You can search by multiple criteria more easily than in OS X's Finder.

>> MAC MAINTENANCE SOFTWARE

Macware MacTuneUp

£20 A Mac maintenance app that puts advanced tools in the hands of less experienced users

CONTACTS

Developer: Macware
www.pxsoftware.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/611555

REQUIREMENTS

RAM: 256MB **OS:** Mac OS X 10.3.9 or later **Hard disk:** 10MB free

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Cheap
- ⊕ Plenty of features
- ⊕ Advanced options
- ⊖ Sys Prefs covers many features

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Decent range of options and at a decent price."

Keeping the Mac operating system in top condition is not always child's play. *MacTuneUp* is designed to make the process simpler.

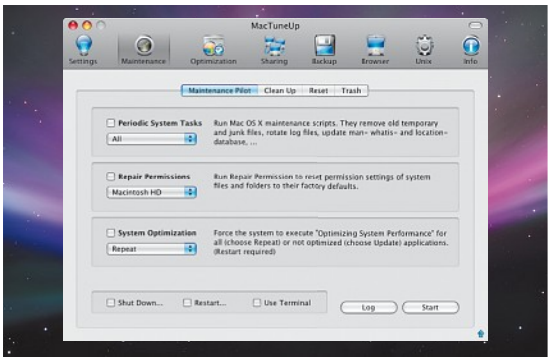
There are five options: Settings, Maintenance, Optimization, Sharing and Backup with access to other useful information such as keyboard shortcuts and Unix commands.

The Settings tab doesn't really offer you much that isn't already in *System Preferences*, but it does bring them all together in one place. For instance, if you're configuring a few Macs at once, the Settings tab makes it easy to ensure all settings are consistent.

Under the Maintenance tab things get a little more advanced, with the option to run the automatic system tasks when you want. You can also set the app to repair permissions and force the System Optimization routine, which normally only runs when a system update is applied. In addition, you can manage your network connection settings optimising TCP, UDP and packet delay. However, if you're comfortable with this kind of thing you won't need *MacTuneUp*, and if you're not it's best not to tinker with these settings.

For £25 this is a solid app; we did see modest speed gains after running the suite of maintenance and optimisation tools.

Coupled with this product's sister software *DiskTools Pro* (see opposite page) you'd have a good troubleshooting, repair and maintenance toolkit.
Christopher Brennan



☐ Periodic System Tasks — All
Run Mac OS X maintenance scripts. They remove old temporary and junk files, rotate log files, update man- whatis- and location-database. ...

☐ Repair Permissions — Macintosh HD
Run Repair Permission to reset permission settings of system files and folders to their factory defaults.

☐ System Optimization — Repeat
Force the system to execute "Optimizing System Performance" for all (choose Repeat) or not optimized (choose Update) applications. (Restart required)

☐ Shut Down... ☐ Restart... ☐ Use Terminal

MacTuneUp will let you run relatively advanced tasks with ease.

>> DISK UTILITY

Macware DiskTools Pro 3.0.2

$60 (£37) A hard disk maintenance and recovery tool for your Mac

Keeping your Mac's hard disks up and running is often overlooked, yet it's of vital importance. Your hard disk can physically break, or the files on it can become corrupted. Either way, your data is at risk and it's better to be over-cautious than too laid back.

DiskTools Pro is a hard disk management, maintenance and recovery utility that also offers a backup tool. This suite of hard disk tools included is extensive, though the way its interface works means it's not going to intimidate the novice user. The single-window interface lists attached disks on the left, and options to the right.

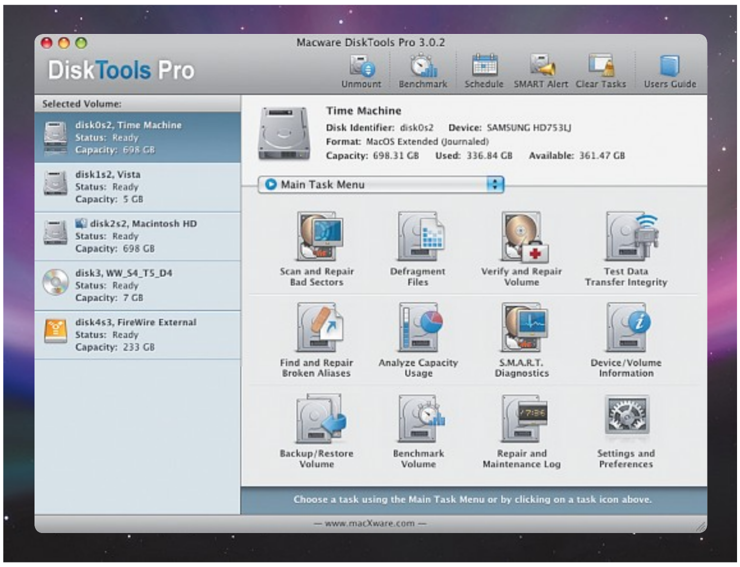
Many options

There are 12 options available including access to logs and preferences. To perform any of the tasks, you simply highlight the disk and click on the appropriate icon. You're then presented with further options. It might seem like a small point, but making things like this as simple as possible means it's more likely you'll actually use them.

Standout features include making bootable backups and the ability to schedule defragmentation, bad sector repairs and backup across a range of your volumes. But *DiskTools Pro* also has a few more strings to its impressive bow.

> *"The ability to schedule tasks and the simple nature of the interface make DiskTools Pro a really compelling piece of software"*

You can find and repair broken aliases, analyse disk usage, list volume information and test your disk's data transfer integrity. It's fairly fast too, with 105GB of data on a 250GB disk scanned for bad sectors in about 50 minutes. The ability to repair aliases and symbolic links is good too, with a quick scan of our system finding 427 files with broken links fixed.



disk0s2, Time Machine
Status: Ready
Capacity: 698 GB

disk1s2, Vista
Status: Ready
Capacity: 5 GB

disk2s2, Macintosh HD
Status: Ready
Capacity: 698 GB

disk3, WW_S4_T5_D4
Status: Ready
Capacity: 7 GB

disk4s3, FireWire External
Status: Ready
Capacity: 233 GB

Time Machine
Disk Identifier: disk0s2 Device: SAMSUNG HD753LJ
Format: MacOS Extended (Journaled)
Capacity: 698.31 GB Used: 336.84 GB Available: 361.47 GB

Choose a task using the Main Task Menu or by clicking on a task icon above.

DiskTools Pro's interface is simple to understand so it's great for novice users to get to grips with.

The S.M.A.R.T system warns you if your hard disk is on the way out, but unless you keep an eye on it the system is somewhat redundant. With *DiskTools Pro* you can set a S.M.A.R.T alert at login or seven other time intervals. It will send you an email or show an alert, whichever you choose.

You can't run *DiskTools Pro* on a network volume and it only works with HFS and HFS+ disks, but these are minor irritations. The ability to schedule tasks and the simple nature of the interface make it a really compelling piece of software. If you're into knowing how efficient your disks are, the benchmarking tool is also very useful. Any program that makes the dull task of keeping your Mac healthy a more simple process is to be lauded, and *DiskTools Pro* is one such application.

Some of the functionality is a replication of what Mac OS X can already do, but *DiskTools Pro* brings it all under one umbrella. The interface is its strong point and the approach this app takes is what makes it so compelling.

Compelling interface

DiskTools Pro compares well to similar products such as Prosoft Engineering's *Drive Genius* (see *MacFormat* 208, June 2009). However, it lacks some of its extra functionality. There's no space-saving or boot-recovery tools, for example, but these are useful extras rather than must-have features. It's small enough to be copied on to a boot DVD though so making your own isn't all that difficult.

Christopher Brennan

CONTACTS

Developer: Macware
www.pxsoftware.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/611578

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: G4 or better **OS:** Mac OS X 10.3.9 or later **RAM:** 256MB **Hard disk:** 80MB free

PROS & CONS

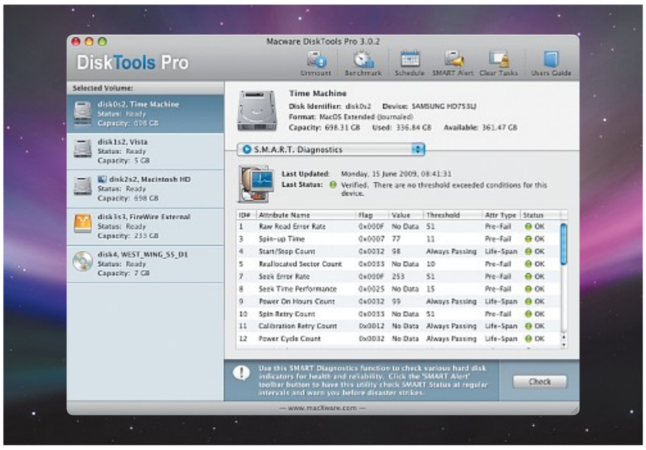
- ⊕ Great interface
- ⊕ Plenty of features
- ⊕ Scheduling
- ⊕ Create bootable backups
- ⊕ Supports multiple volumes
- ⊖ Can't use it on a network volume

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A great disk utility with plenty of useful features and a simple interface."

The S.M.A.R.T status window lets you see what kind of health your disks are in.



disk0s2, Time Machine
Status: Ready
Capacity: 698 GB

disk1s2, Vista
Status: Ready
Capacity: 5 GB

disk2s2, Macintosh HD
Status: Ready
Capacity: 698 GB

disk3s3, FireWire External
Status: Ready
Capacity: 233 GB

disk4, WEST_WING_S5_D1
Status: Ready
Capacity: 7 GB

Time Machine
Disk Identifier: disk0s2 Device: SAMSUNG HD753LJ
Format: MacOS Extended (Journaled)
Capacity: 698.31 GB Used: 336.84 GB Available: 361.47 GB

Last Updated: Monday, 15 June 2009, 08:41:31
Last Status: Verified. There are no threshold exceeded conditions for this device.

ID#	Attribute Name	Flag	Value	Threshold	Attr Type	Status
1	Raw Read Error Rate	0x000F	No Data	51	Pre-Fail	OK
3	Spin-up Time	0x0007	77	11	Pre-Fail	OK
4	Start/Stop Count	0x0032	98	Always Passing	Life-Span	OK
5	Reallocated Sector Count	0x0033	No Data	10	Pre-Fail	OK
7	Seek Error Rate	0x000F	253	51	Pre-Fail	OK
8	Seek Time Performance	0x0025	No Data	15	Pre-Fail	OK
9	Power On Hours Count	0x0032	99	Always Passing	Life-Span	OK
10	Spin Retry Count	0x0033	No Data	51	Pre-Fail	OK
11	Calibration Retry Count	0x0012	No Data	Always Passing	Life-Span	OK
12	Power Cycle Count	0x0032	No Data	Always Passing	Life-Span	OK

Use this SMART Diagnostics function to check various hard disk indicators for health and reliability. Click the 'SMART Alert' toolbar button to have this utility check SMART Status at regular intervals and warn you before disaster strikes.

>> FILE DE-DUPLICATION UTILITY

PixelEspresso Decloner 1.0

$20 (£12) Find the duplicate files that have been filling up your hard drive then trash them

CONTACTS

Developer: PixelEspresso
www.pixelespressoapps.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/612961

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: PowerPC or Intel
OS: Mac OS X 10.5 or later
Hard disk: 5 MB free

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Has features to prevent mistakes
- ⊕ Simple, easy-to-use interface
- ⊖ Buggy and requires training
- ⊖ No administrator access option

VERDICT

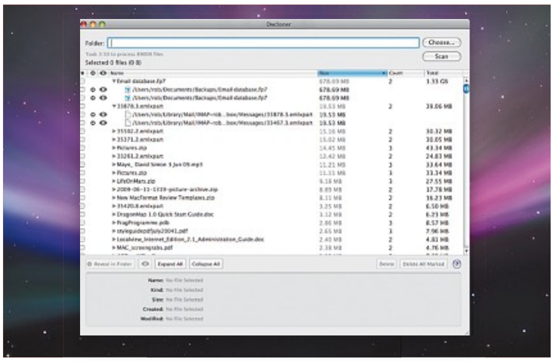
★★★☆☆

"Its price, bugs and defaults do not appeal..."

When you're pushed for hard drive space, the quickest way to reclaim it is to delete files. But which ones? Getting rid of duplicate files is better than getting rid of more vital files, but finding them isn't easy: they can be scattered all over and given different names.

Decloner attempts to make finding duplicate files easier than guesswork. It scans whatever area of the hard drive you want and creates a 'fingerprint' for each file. If the fingerprint matches that of another file, they're the same, no matter how they may have been disguised. The program then lets you use Quick Look to view the files it thinks are duplicates to make sure it's not imagining things. Then when you're sure, you can get *Decloner* to move files you've marked as duplicates to the Trash.

Running this application requires a few attempts to get things running properly. Numerous browser cache files and thumbnails will show up as duplicates so you'll need to take advantage of *Decloner*'s filtering system. Running it on your whole hard drive will slow up your system and may result in crashing. There's no administrator option for you to compare your files with other users' files. We also found it would flag up some files as duplicates of themselves.



Although Decloner will find duplicates these may need filtering.

Decloner is a decent, but flawed utility that can help cope with a cluttered hard drive. But the work required makes it less desirable than a new hard drive.

Rob Buckley

>> ADVANCED BLOG EDITING TOOL

MOApp myBlogEdit 1.3

€10 (£8.50) A 'stylish' blog editing tool that's both a step up and a step down from a browser

CONTACTS

Developer: MOApp
http://myownapp.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/612985

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.4.11

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Supports most major blogs
- ⊕ Has a file uploader and manager
- ⊖ Poor interface hides features
- ⊖ No rich text editor for formatting

VERDICT

★⯪☆☆☆

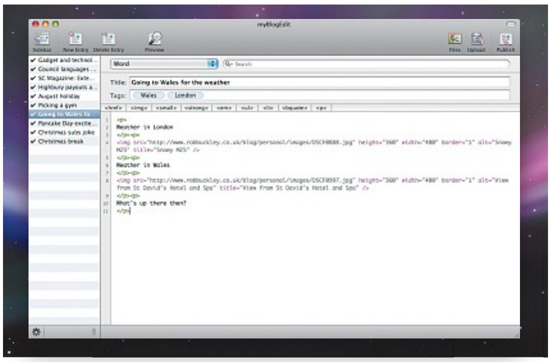
"Lacks features and is hard to use and configure."

Most of the time, a browser is all you need to blog. But for the dedicated blogger, a browser doesn't have the power of a desktop app.

Billed as 'the weblog editor for people with style', *myBlogEdit* tries to bridge this gap by offering features you can't get in a browser. It supports major blog-editing systems, including *WordPress*, *TypePad* and *Movable Type*, and has most of the features available in their browser interfaces for managing and publishing entries. In addition, it has a spellchecker, syntax highlighting, and find and replace. Its highlights are a media manager and an image uploader as well as a file manager.

However, while it may be for stylish people, these folk still need to grasp the basics of XML-RPC to set it up as it lacks RSD support for easy configuration.

It also has severe deficiencies, including a horrible interface that hides important functions until you hit the Publish button and a tendency to crash when dealing with categories. Principally designed with *WordPress* in mind, *myBlogEdit* is certainly a step up on *WordPress*'s interface, but its support for *Movable Type* is lacklustre and in many ways falls behind that system's far better web interface. Compared with rival *ecto*, which has none of its flaws, it's also massively inferior, lacking even a rich text editor. A browser's still better and *ecto*'s still best.



Title: Going to Wales for the weather
Tags: Wales London

Configuration is anything but simple with myBlogEdit...

Rob Buckley

>> DATA SYNCING UTILITY

Syncables Desktop 5.1

Mac FORMAT On the disc

From $30 (£18) Syncing and media browsing tool designed to keep all your computers in line

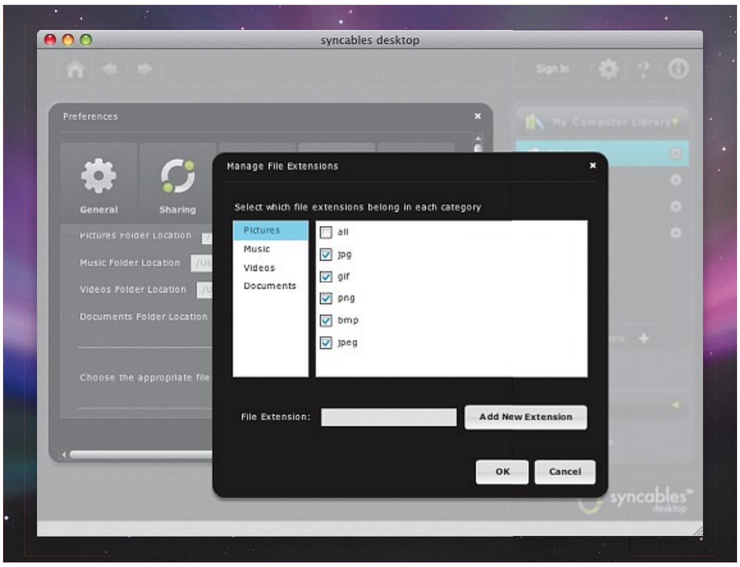
The number of people with multiple Macs has grown over the past few years, with the most popular combination seeming to be a desktop and a laptop. It's not just Macs either; mixed operating system households are now much more prevalent. Windows and Linux can often be found running side-by-side with Macs. Keeping all your photos, music and video – not to mention email and bookmarks – synchronised can be a real pain to do manually. Yes, you could set up a central server and keep documents there, but that can be a faff and requires you to do all the disk and file management. *Syncables* is an application designed to take all the hassle out of keeping your computers in sync. The idea being that no matter which computer on your network you decide to use, any of the others will also be updated with your changes.

Simply install *Syncables* on your various computers and choose how and what to share with each computer. You can transfer your data one-way or two-way depending on your needs. If you're running a Windows PC you can sync with a hard disk rather than over a network, it's a shame that isn't replicated on the Mac. For now *Syncables* is limited to your local network, but future editions are to include web syncing and mobile versions too.

> *"The software looks great and really is a visual treat, however, we found it a little confusing to get to grips with…"*

If you just have all your files in the music, videos, documents and pictures folders then set-up is easy, just click to share and away you go. A first-time sync can take some time so if you have plenty of documents keep that in mind before you start.

Syncables is a bit of a mixed bag from a user standpoint. The software looks great and is a visual treat, but we found it a little confusing to get to grips with. We're by no means saying that *Syncables* is unusable, more that you'll need to set aside time to be comfortable with it. We're not sure about using *Syncables* as a replacement media player either, but you can play your music, stream video and watch slideshows of your images through the interface.


syncables desktop
Sign In
My Computer Library
Preferences
General
Sharing
Pictures Folder Location
Music Folder Location
Videos Folder Location
Documents Folder Location
Choose the appropriate file
Manage File Extensions
Select which file extensions belong in each category
Pictures
Music
Videos
Documents
File Extension:
Add New Extension
OK
Cancel
syncables desktop

☐ all
☑ jpg
☑ gif
☑ png
☑ bmp
☑ jpeg

You can choose to omit certain file extensions automatically to speed up your syncing.

There are a lot of options with *Syncables* and if you've got the time to set them up you can be as fussy or laidback about what to share as you like. Certain file extensions can be included or excluded. You can sync each day, month, week or do it manually and you can set up custom sync locations should you wish.

The need to have the software running permanently may well be the biggest drawback of *Syncables*. The reason *Time Machine* and *iSync* are such useful utilities is that once they're set up they function invisibly. There's no need for you to get involved or remember to run software as your data is backed up and shared automatically. *Syncables* needs you to get involved and that's a seemingly minor, but important usability barrier. For $30 *Syncables* does a sterling job, however it does take a bit of work to get everything set and ready to go and not all the menus are crystal clear. There's a great deal of potential here, it looks fantastic and as it stands it's a decent application, but it has some failings. You can find a 'lite', limited edition on this month's disc, so see for yourself if it suits.

Christopher Brennan

CONTACTS

Developer: Syncables
www.syncables.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/613012

REQUIREMENTS

OS: Mac OS X 10.4 or later
Hard disk: 135MB free

PROS & CONS

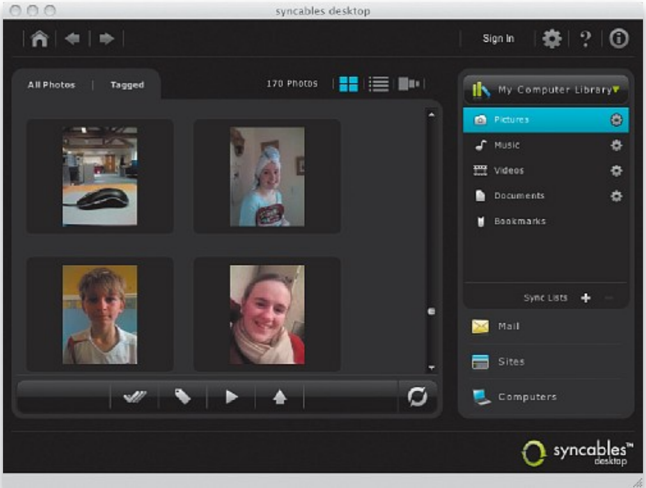
- ➕ Inexpensive
- ➕ Looks good
- ➕ Multiple OS support
- ➖ Not easy to pick up quickly
- ➖ Need to be running to sync
- ➖ Local network only

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"Syncables is a well-designed application, but looks are only part of the process and there are some drawbacks."

Although the main interface is good looking, that's not necessarily conducive to Syncable's ease of use.


syncables desktop
Sign In
All Photos
Tagged
170 Photos
My Computer Library
Pictures
Music
Videos
Documents
Bookmarks
Sync Lists
Mail
Sites
Computers
syncables desktop

>> TALKING DICTIONARY & THESAURUS

Talking Concise OED and OET

$50 (£30); $35 (£21) This dictionary talks, but do you need to listen?

CONTACTS

Developer: Paragon Software Group
www.penreader.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/611321

REQUIREMENTS

RAM: roughly 60MB disk space each
OS: Mac OS X 10.4 or later

PROS & CONS

- + It's the authority on English
- − Apple Dictionary is free
- − Often awkward interface
- − Not all words are pronounced

VERDICT

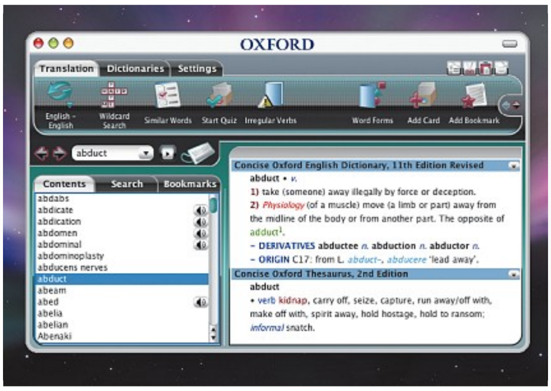
★★½☆☆

"Authoritative, but we didn't like the interface."

While Paragon Software's *Talking Concise Oxford English Dictionary and Thesaurus* are marketed as separate applications, they work together in the same window, providing definitions and synonyms in one view. Every word is clickable to bring up its own definition; 20,000 of the 240,000 dictionary entries are accompanied by audio pronunciations; and entries can be summoned from within (some) other apps via mouse-hover or a mouse-and-hot-key combo.

But with the OS X bundled dictionary providing much the same functionality and an Oxford lexicographical source (albeit an American one), it's difficult to see what benefit beyond its audio content the Paragon product offers.

However, Paragon's software does have some nice features, which are absent from Apple's *Dictionary*. For example, there is a wildcard search using * to represent characters, so that "*cat" brings up "wildcat", "fat cat", and so on. There is also a "similar words" function.



Concise Oxford English Dictionary, 11th Edition Revised

abduct • *v.*
1) take (someone) away illegally by force or deception.
2) *Physiology* (of a muscle) move (a limb or part) away from the midline of the body or from another part. The opposite of adduct[1].
– DERIVATIVES **abductee** *n.* **abduction** *n.* **abductor** *n.*
– ORIGIN C17: from L. *abduct-*, *abducere* 'lead away'.

Concise Oxford Thesaurus, 2nd Edition

abduct
• verb kidnap, carry off, seize, capture, run away/off with, make off with, spirit away, hold hostage, hold to ransom; *informal* snatch.

The dictionary and thesaurus will handily appear in the same window.

But these don't compensate for a slightly tricky interface and the often-broader range of vocabulary found in the Apple product. If you need the ultimate authority on the English language then you need this, otherwise, it's probably best to stick with Apple's free dictionary.

Barnaby Page

>> AUDIO/VIDEO CAPTURE SOFTWARE

Dream Capture 3.0

$10 (£7) Just how easy can you make video capture? Very, apparently…

CONTACTS

Developer: The Dream Apps
www.the-dream.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/611327

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: G5 Mac (Intel recommended) **RAM:** 3.5MB disk space **Other:** capture device

PROS & CONS

- + Instantly saved videos
- + Excellent source recognition
- + Cheaper than a pub lunch
- − Some epic file sizes

VERDICT

★★★★☆

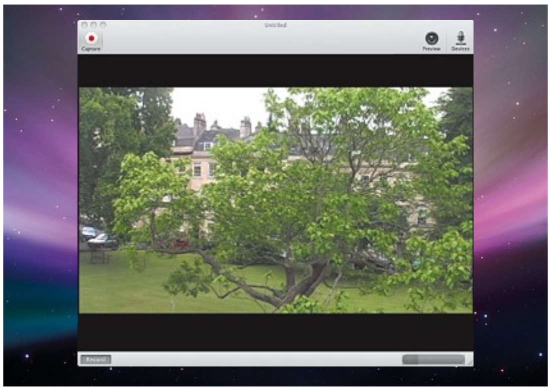
"An efficient, high-quality bit of capture software."

Dream Capture claims to capture video from any external video source up to 1080p, and it certainly coped with everything we hooked up to our Mac. There is some playback lag in the capture windows, but that's to be expected. The output is saved when you stop recording.

One trick is that you can open up multiple windows to capture different sources simultaneously, limited only by your processor (our MacBook Pro maxed out at 4).

In terms of a feature list, *Dream Capture* finds itself closest to *BTV* and *Audio Hijack*, though these are more than double the price and have more features.

The capture quality is really very good. *Dream Capture* outputs the footage the same as it went in, which makes for some large files. DVD-quality PAL through DV clocks in at around 300MB per minute, while the VGA-sized video from your iSight camera is uncompressed, so it reaches 500MB for each minute of footage.



Simple video capture. The lack of options here could be an advantage.

Its biggest competitor is *iMovie*, which comes free on all Macs, so why use *Dream Capture*? Well, it recognises any video device that you connect to your Mac, while *iMovie* is limited to DV devices for live capturing. It's also simpler, allowing you to simply plug in and capture video without messing around with any export options or going through the editing interface.

Matthew Bolton

SOLD OUT!

35 Essential Mac Fixes

Issue 204
February 2009

35 essential Mac fixes
What happens to old Macs?
First look at Snow Leopard
Six mouse & keyboard sets
On the disc
Dossier 2.0, ThinkFree Office 3.5 & more

SOLD OUT!

Issue 205
March 2009

iLife '09: hands-on report
101 Mac timesavers
Make calls on an iPod touch
Six online printing services
On the disc
MailSteward Lite 8.0.8, ProteMac Meter 2.0 & more

25 new things to do with your Mac

Issue 206
April 2009

25 things to do with a Mac
What next for Apple?
iWork '09 in full
Six instant messengers
On the disc
Avenir 2.3.7, iConquer 1.5, Creative Movie FX 1

iTunes masterclass

Issue 207
May 2009

iTunes Masterclass
We test the Genius Bar
Write a novel on your Mac
Six NAS iTunes servers
On the disc
Captain FTP 6, Language Alchemist 2, R10Cipher 1.1

SOLD OUT!

Speed up your Mac

Issue 208
June 2009

Speed up your Mac
GarageBand investigated
How a NetBook should look
Six web builders tested
On the disc
RapidWeaver themes, Compositor 2.9.4 & more

OS X secrets revealed

Issue 209
Summer 2009

Fast internet outside the city
How products are born
Stargaze with your Mac
Create DJ playlists
On the disc
Fanurio1.7, HyperImage 1, Realsoft 3D 6

Back issues

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Issue 210 / July 2009

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Modbook and Olympus µ Tough 8000 reviewed
Six spreadsheets tested

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Shortcut special!
50 essential Mac timesavers

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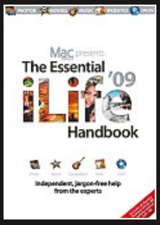
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WORLD OF TECH

21 guilty pleasures for geeks

Things you don't even admit on anonymous forums

It's OK, you're in safe company. We know you didn't really buy that gadget because it could interface seamlessly with the cloud, or because it offers the best range of features for Small to Medium Enterprises, or even because it has the fastest processor this side of a supercomputer. You just like touching its rubbery buttons and the fact that it goes 'ping'.

You're not alone. In fact, here are some other guilty pleasures that we'd like to share with you...

1. The iPhone Unlock swipe

You've used your iPhone every day since you bought it, but even all those apps you've downloaded can't compare to the first thing you do with your iPhone every day: gently, caressingly, swiping your finger from left to right across the Unlock button. It's the nearest you ever get to foreplay. And you love it.

2. Seeing how juiced up your PC is in Vista / Windows 7

You know you've got a kicking system, and how. Yet every day you dive into the Welcome Centre just to see it all by the numbers. "Windows-capable? Don't make us laugh. Just look at the stats I'm getting," you say (probably to yourself).

3. The Macintosh bong

A cross-between a call to action, geek whimsy and the harbinger of PC doom, the Macintosh bong is one of the great geek pleasures. It confirms your status as a man (or woman) who has thunk different, sticking it to the (PC) man with your non-conformist ways. Sometimes you stick it through your kick-ass speakers. Sometimes you simply soak it up on headphones. But the best is when you Zap the PRAM by holding down the Command-Option-P-R keys so your Mac starts up again, and again.... and again. Or you could just watch the Bong video on YouTube.

4. Looking at your blog's user stats

OK, so your mum is the only person who looks at your blog and that's only because you set her homepage to it last time your configured her PC, but still. Every day you pile on to Statcounter, Technorati or Google Analytics just to see how well you're doing. What, you're supposed to get them to ignore your own IP address? Where's the pleasure in that?

5. Waggling the analogue sticks on your PS3

Whether you're fragging your way through FPS mayhem, careering around a virtual racetrack or lolloping around a platformer, the best bit about it all is the feel of those rubbery pointy things that squirm beneath your thumbs. You especially love it when you waggle so far that the joystick reaches its softly clunking stop. It's even better when you send it yawing back the other way.

6. Cranking up your home cinema system for the THX OMMMMMmmmmm

200W per channel amplifier? Check. Seven surround sound speakers and two active subs? Check. The neighbours are out? Stuff it, who cares! That latest Blu-ray blockbuster may shift more CGI pixels than a supercomputer in a Pixar render-farm, but hey – just listen to this. Everyone, come on, OMMMMMmmmmm. It's what war would sound like if Hare Krishna had an army.

7. Smashing the ball in Wii Tennis

OK, so you could just wave your arm around lazily while lying semi-comatose on your sofa. But surely it's much (much) better to lift the Wii-mote right above your head, violently jerk your arm down and then listen out for that thundering whack as your virtual racket hits the virtual ball. You're rewarded with the shimmering, heady sight of the ball screaming banshee-like across the net. Bingo, one set-winning ace in the bag and the shame-faced joy of seeing your four-year-old nemesis crumple, crying, to the floor. Guilty pleasure? Oh yes.

8. Deliberately trying to confuse your sat nav

You've plotted the fastest route from here to Maplin, only now you're just going to take a teensy detour. "Perform a legal U-turn", TessTess says politely. "Perform a legal U-turn", she says again, tension rising slightly. "I SAID, PERFORM A LEGAL U-TURN! What's the matter, can't you tell your left from right, or something?" TessTess, of course, has failed to spot that you're driving a DeLorean. And this is now 1955...

There's more! Read the full article at www.techradar.com/565083

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Essential Collection: Lo
An Evening Wasted Wit
Everybody Else Is Doin

Come on, admit it: you love swiping your iPhone screen

Zoom

Mac User Groups

Find fellow Mac enthusiasts near you! Here's a list of the UK's MUGs

[1] Aberdeen MUG
Aberdeen
davidjearly@mac.com
www.abdnmug.co.uk

[2] Bristol & Bath MUG
Bath
info@bbmug.co.uk
www.bbmug.co.uk

[3] Berkshire & North Hampshire MUG
Reading area
i.j.burn@reading.ac.uk

[4] Blackburn MUG
Blackburn
info@bmug.co.uk
www.bmug.co.uk

[5] Bracknell-Forest MUG
Bracknell, Berks
office@bfmuguk.org
www.bfmuguk.org

[6] ClubMac Ireland
Dublin
secretary@clubmac.ie
www.clubmac.ie

[7] Cork University College
Cork
d.murphy@cs.ucc.ie
www.ucc.ie/mug

[8] Cumbria Mac Enthusiasts
Barrow-in-Furness
CumbriaMacEnthusiasts@steel.clara.net
home.clara.net/steel/cme_home.htm

[9] Deaf Mac Users
Website group for the hard of hearing
nick@sturley.co.uk
http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/deaf-macs/

[10] Durham University MUG
Durham
durmac@durham.ac.uk
www.dur.ac.uk/durmac

[11] Edinburgh MUG
Edinburgh
admin@edmug.org.uk
www.edmug.org.uk

[12] Exeter MUG
Exeter
examug@mac.com
www.examug.org.uk

[13] FAMUS (Fife)
Kirkcaldy
davidwlaw@btinternet.com
www.fifedirect.org.uk/famus

[14] Glasgow MUG
Glasgow
glas.mug@mac.com
www.glasmug.com

[15] Isle of Wight MUG
Isle of Wight
admin@iowaug.org.uk
www.iowaug.org.uk

[16] Kent & East Sussex MUG
Kent
www.kesmug.org

[17] London MUG
London
secretary@lmug.org
www.lmug.org.uk

[18] MACUS (Manchester)
Manchester
davjaeger@macunlimited.net

[19] Manchester MUG
Manchester
simon.richards@manmug.co.uk

[20] Midlands MUG
Birmingham
group@mmug.org.uk
www.mmug.org.uk

[21] Naseby Mac User Group
Naseby
stuart.cato@mac.com

[22] Northern Ireland MUG
Belfast
matt@nimug.org

[23] North West Mac Group
Near Warrington
info@nwmug.co.uk
www.nwmug.co.uk

[24] Norwich MUG
Norwich
norwichmacusergroup@mac.com

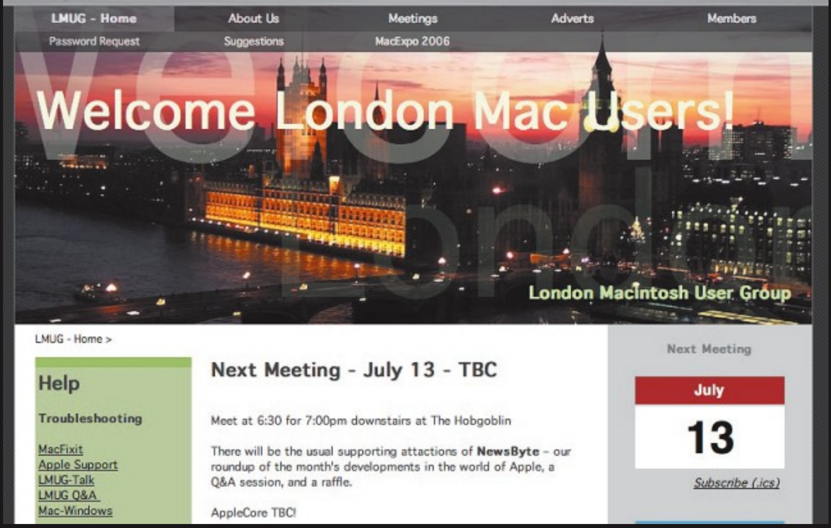
[25] Oban MUG
Oban
obanmug@mac.com

[26] OxMUG
Oxford
www.oxmug.org

[27] Potteries MUG
potmug@mac.com
www.potmug.com

[28] Severn MUG
South West
admin@s-mug.com
http://s-mug.com

MUG OF THE MONTH / London MUG



Next Meeting - July 13 - TBC

Meet at 6:30 for 7:00pm downstairs at The Hobgoblin

There will be the usual supporting attactions of **NewsByte** - our roundup of the month's developments in the world of Apple, a Q&A session, and a raffle.

AppleCore TBC!

It's no surprise that the London Mac User Group (LMUG) is one of the biggest and most established MUGS. There are regular monthly meetings at the Hobgoblin pub near Marylebone, which generally start with a Q&A session plus a main speaker or the group splits into special interest groups. Visitors pay £3 but it's refunded if you join. See **www.lmug.org.uk** for more. ●

[29] Southampton Uni
Southampton
trf.106@soton.ac.uk

[30] South Essex MUG
Wickford, Essex
chairman@seal-apple.co.uk
www.seal-apple.co.uk

[31] South Wales MUG
Cardiff
swmug@applewiz.biz
www.swmug.org.uk

[32] Sneem MUG
Sneem
sean@smug.ie
www.smug.ie

[33] Stroud Mac User Group
Stroud
jmuy@aol.com

[34] Suffolk Mac User Group
Ipswich
mike@mikekwasniak.co.uk
suffolkmacusergroup.co.uk

[35] Surrey MUG
Surrey
monigmagr@mac.com

[36] Swindon MUG
Swindon
swindonmacusergroup@googlemail.com
http://swindonmacusergroup.googlepages.com

[37] Three Counties MUG
Luton, Bedfordshire
info@3cmug.co.uk
www.3cmug.co.uk

[38] Wessex MUGs
Fareham, Dorchester, Bournmouth & Salisbury
enquiries@wamug.org.uk
www.wamug.org.uk

[39] Witney MUG
West Oxfordshire
witneymacusergroup@gmail.com
www.witneymacusergroup.webs.com

[40] Yorkshire MUG
Doncaster & other towns
oldgit@dircon.co.uk
www.ymug.org

ARE WE MISSING YOUR MUG?
Email in and let us know!
macformat@futurenet.com

NEW STARTER

START YOUR OWN MUG

If you're planning on starting up a new MUG in your area, or you have recently set one up, let us know and we'll print the details here. Email **macformat@futurenet.com**

Shareware

>> MEET YOUR MAC EXPERT

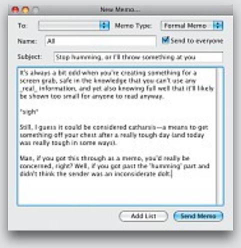
Shareware obsessive, Craig Grannell has more small apps on his Mac than Steve Jobs has black polo necks.

● NEW RELEASES ● SMALL APPLICATIONS ● USEFUL UTILITIES ● TRUSTED REVIEWS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Leap forward

File browsing and tagging app *Leap* (**www.ironicsoftware.com**) has jumped to version 2.0. *Leap 1.1.0* got a favourable review in *MacFormat* 208, and the latest version builds on a solid foundation to provide an even better experience. The interface has been freshened up, making *Leap* look more at home on Leopard, and the tagging system now uses Open Meta, utilised by a number of high-profile shareware products.



To: Memo Type: Formal Memo

Name: All ☑ Send to everyone

Subject: Stop humming, or I'll throw something at you

It's always a bit odd when you're creating something for a screen grab, safe in the knowledge that you can't use any _real_ information, and yet also knowing full well that it'll likely be shown too small for anyone to read anyway.

sigh

Still, I guess it could be considered catharsis—a means to get something off your chest after a really tough day (and today was really tough in some ways).

Man, if you got this through as a memo, you'd really be concerned, right? Well, if you got past the "humming" part and didn't think the sender was an inconsiderate dolt.

Read me!

No one reads emails. Send an email to someone and they're more likely to set fire to their own eyebrows than read it. That's what the creators of *MemoNet* (**www.halcyondr.co.uk**) would like you to think. Its network-based app enables you to fling memos to printers, as when one starts whirring, it grabs attention. A nice idea, but not eco-friendly.

>> APPLICATION LAUNCHER

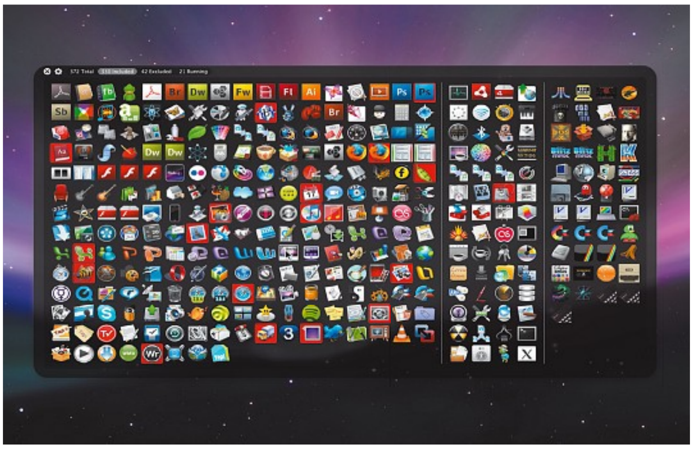
Bevy 1.0.1

$10 (£6) A new kind of launcher for the mouse-obsessed Mac users

Right from the off, *Bevy* had us hooked. It's got a bit of a silly name, a pretty icon, and it threw down the gauntlet. "You think you know best, always going on about using the keyboard and not the mouse," it yelled (in our mind, obviously). "But you're wrong!" And, well, *Bevy* does have a valid point. Although we're not going to set fire to Spotlight and *Spark* just yet, *Bevy* is great for launching applications – and that's even the case if you're usually welded to the keyboard rather than the mouse.

On first launching *Bevy 1.0.1*, a window displays every application that's installed on your Mac, grouped by major folders (such as Applications and Utilities (Applications > Utilities)). Running apps have a red background, and a top-most tab enables you to filter the list to running apps only. You can also stab an alphanumeric key to dim all applications except those with your chosen character at a 'significant' spot in their names. With various view options available, *Bevy*'s worth immediately became clear for providing an overview of installed apps (and any duplicate programs), let alone as a launcher, not least because the lists utilise Spotlight to remain current.

> *"Drag a file to Bevy and it highlights the applications that can edit the file"*



With Bevy, it became clear that Craig really needed to think about a Mac spring clean...

But two things confirmed *Bevy* as being a top application launcher during testing. First, you can customise what it shows: you define which folders the app looks in, and it can exclude individual apps from the list via a contextual menu. To later restore something to the main list, just access the Excluded tab and switch the relevant app back. Secondly, *Bevy* is wonderfully drag-aware. Drag a file to *Bevy* and it highlights the applications that can edit the file; hold ⌘ and *Bevy* expands the lit apps to those that can open the item.

There are quirks – switching between tabs (Included, Excluded, Running) is jarring, since *Bevy*'s centralised window changes size in a big way. Also, groups lack labels and Mac OS X 10.4 users might experience the odd visual bug. However, these are truly minor gripes for an impressive new take on launching.

CONTACTS

Developer:
bergdesign
www.bergdesign.com

VERDICT

★★★★½

"A great way to launch apps and to see what's installed on your Mac."

>> ON THE DISC

You can find all these programs on the disc.

>> MENU BAR APPLICATION

Simple WindowSets 3.0

$13 (£8) Keep your Finder windows organised

Simple WindowSets enables you to create, restore and update sets of *Finder* windows - useful if you regularly work with lots of precisely set up project folders. Since we reviewed the application a year ago, it's had a code overhaul, resulting in a more reliable and stable application. There are also new features, including an enhanced user interface, hot-keys for rapid set restoration, and the ability to define custom images for each window set. Implementation of hot-keys and custom images is ham-fisted, but the features still add to what was already a great product.

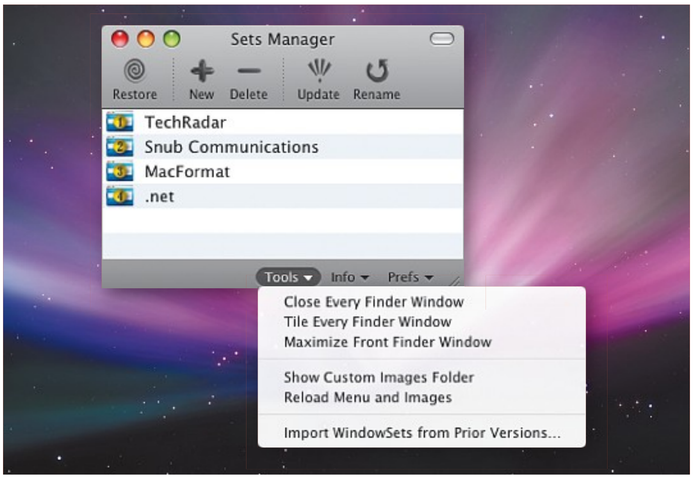
CONTACTS

Developer:
HAMSoft Engineering
www.hamsoftengineering.com

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Despite niggles with new features, this remains a first-class app."


Sets Manager
Restore
New
Delete
Update
Rename
TechRadar
Snub Communications
MacFormat
.net
Tools
Info
Prefs
Close Every Finder Window
Tile Every Finder Window
Maximize Front Finder Window
Show Custom Images Folder
Reload Menu and Images
Import WindowSets from Prior Versions...

Save and restore your favourite Finder window setups with ease.

>> ZOOM BUTTON CUSTOMISER

Right Zoom 1.61

£FREE Customise the Mac's Zoom button

The ex-Windows users among you may be frustrated by the way Mac window Zoom buttons (the green + symbol) work. *Right Zoom* enables you to override defaults and force windows to maximise Windows-style. A built-in white list and black list enable customisation and you can also activate *Right Zoom* behaviour by ⌥-clicking. *Right Zoom* is a faceless app, so accessing its preferences and quitting it is fiddly (the latter requiring *Activity Monitor*), but it's otherwise flawless.

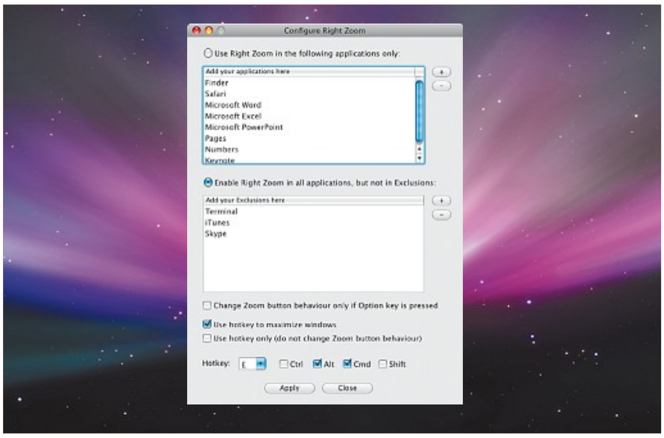
CONTACTS

Developer:
Blazing Tools Software
www.blazingtools.com

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A great means of amending the Zoom button's behaviour."


Configure Right Zoom
+
-
Apply
Close

○ Use Right Zoom in the following applications only:

Add your applications here
Finder
Safari
Microsoft Word
Microsoft Excel
Microsoft PowerPoint
Pages
Numbers
Keynote

● Enable Right Zoom in all applications, but not in Exclusions:

Add your Exclusions here
Terminal
iTunes
Skype

☐ Change Zoom button behaviour only if Option key is pressed
☑ Use hotkey to maximize windows
☐ Use hotkey only (do not change Zoom button behaviour)

Hotkey: E ☐ Ctrl ☑ Alt ☑ Cmd ☐ Shift

Right Zoom brings Windows-style window maximising to the Mac.

>> DOCK MANAGER

Docks 1.0.2

$15 (£9) Set up multiple Docks in a snap

The OS X Dock is easily cluttered if you have loads of applications. *Docks* is a single-purpose utility that enables you to take snapshots of your Dock with different configurations (such as with office tools, design apps or games) and restore one of them when working on certain projects. Streamlined to the hilt, *Docks* isn't the most feature-rich example of this kind of app, nor is it the cheapest. It is, however, absurdly simple to use, rock-solid stable, reliable and rather pretty. ●

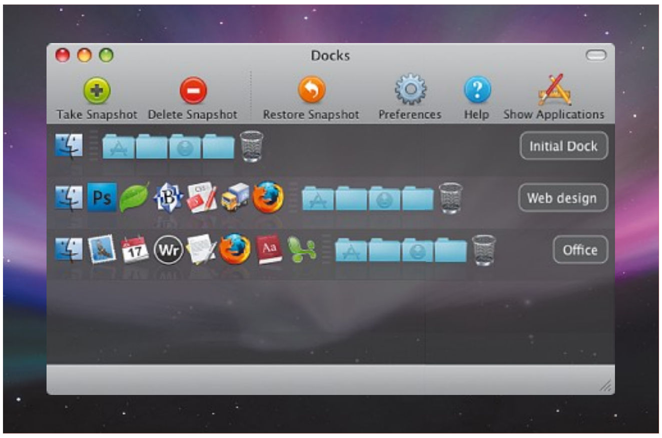
CONTACTS

Developer:
Thoughtful Tree Software
www.thoughtfultree.com

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"Simple, pretty and a bit pricey - but we love it anyway."


Docks
Take Snapshot
Delete Snapshot
Restore Snapshot
Preferences
Help
Show Applications
Initial Dock
Web design
Office

Docks does a simple task well, making switching between multiple Docks a breeze.

iPhone

» MEET YOUR iPHONE EXPERT
Deputy Editor Christopher Phin knows more about the iPhone than any one man has the right to.

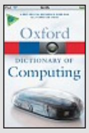
● NEW RELEASES ● SMALL APPLICATIONS ● USEFUL UTILITIES ● TRUSTED REVIEWS

NEWS IN BRIEF

iPhone 3GS & OS 3.0

The big news is the launch of the iPhone 3GS – a faster, more capable model with a better camera and digital compass – and the new iPhone operating system that enables cut/copy/paste, the landscape keyboard MMS, Spotlight search, voice memos, A2DP and more. Read our review of the new iPhone on p83, and learn about the new features in OS 3.0 on p24 – and explore whether it's worth iPod touch users shelling out the £5.99 to upgrade.

New niche dictionaries



We're fans of apps that put reference works on your iPhone – Paragon Software's *Concise Oxford English Dictionary* is a favourite – but now a UK company is producing more targeted reference works, a sign that the iPhone market is about more than fart apps and *Super Monkey Ball*. White Park Bay Software has launched a series of technical dictionaries – politics, law, medical, computing and more. View the range at **http://tinyurl.com/neesmy**.

» MOBILE WORD PROCESSOR

Documents To Go

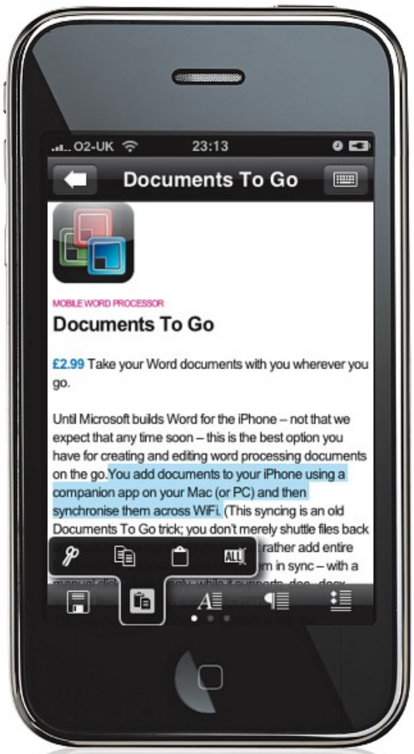
£2.99 Take your Word documents with you wherever you go

Until Microsoft builds *Word* for the iPhone – not that we expect that any time soon – this is the best option you have for creating and editing word processing documents on the go.

You add documents to your iPhone using a companion app on your Mac (or PC) and then synchronise them across WiFi. (This syncing is an old *Documents To Go* trick; you don't merely shuttle files back and forth to your handheld device, but rather add entire folders-full of documents and keep them in sync – with a manual click.) Annoyingly, while it supports DOC, DOCX and TXT files, there's no support for RTF.

The real power of the system, though, is document editing. Even before iPhone OS 3.0 was released, DataViz had developed a copy/paste engine that feels very natural, though it meant you could only do so within the app. (As we write, an update that fixes this is on its way, presumably switching to the OS-wide framework.)

> *"It's the best option for creating and editing word processing documents on the go"*



MOBILE WORD PROCESSOR

Documents To Go

£2.99 Take your Word documents with you wherever you go.

Until Microsoft builds Word for the iPhone – not that we expect that any time soon – this is the best option you have for creating and editing word processing documents on the go. You add documents to your iPhone using a companion app on your Mac (or PC) and then synchronise them across WiFi. (This syncing is an old Documents To Go trick; you don't merely shuttle files back rather add entire m in sync – with a

The iPhone's auto-correct keyboard intelligence is intact, and you can even use the keyboard in landscape mode if you want more finger space – and a tiny, single-line letterbox view of your document.

Though you can't change the size of text, you can manage lists, colours and more. You can jump to the beginning, middle or end of the document, do find/replace and – can it really be true? – word, character and paragraph counts. It's not live, but it can do selection counts too.

You can view lots of other file types, but this is only a *Word* doc editor. There's a £6 edition that can grab attachments from Exchange servers – you can't just get them from your email in *Mail* – but neither can edit *Excel* documents never mind *PowerPoint* or any *iWork* formats.

CONTACTS

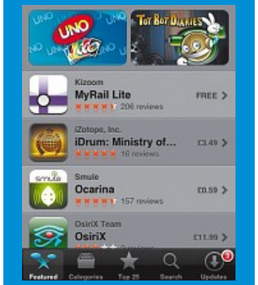
Developer: DataViz
www.dataviz.com
Available from the App Store

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Consider Quickoffice for its Excel editing, but this is a great word processor for the iPhone."

» DOWNLOAD THESE APPS



Kizoom
MyRail Lite — FREE
★★★★½ 206 reviews

iZotope, Inc.
iDrum: Ministry of... — £3.49
★★★★★ 16 reviews

Smule
Ocarina — £0.59
★★★★½ 157 reviews

OsiriX Team
OsiriX — £11.99

You can download these apps from the iTunes Store on your Mac or from the App Store on your iPhone or iPod touch.

>>MOBILE TV

SlingPlayer Mobile

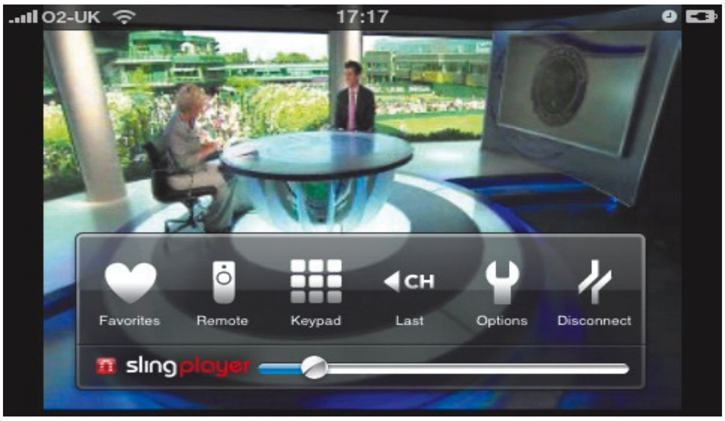
£17.99 Watch live TV on your iPhone over WiFi… but it comes at a price

Hook up a SlingBox Solo or Pro to your home network and TV equipment, and it takes your TV signal, encodes it, and streams it over the internet. Install this app on your iPhone or iPod touch to do the same. SlingBoxes integrate with almost any hardware – Sky+, Apple TV, cables boxes – and can control them remotely. But the setup is expensive – £112 for a SlingBox Solo, plus this app and internet access – and you can only receive broadcasts over WiFi. The quality is good and solid, but the interface is sparse to the point of confusing – you swipe to see more options – and channel-changing is sluggish.

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"Live TV on your iPhone sounds great, but this is pricey."



Although the system is solid and the idea great, it's an expensive and imperfect solution.

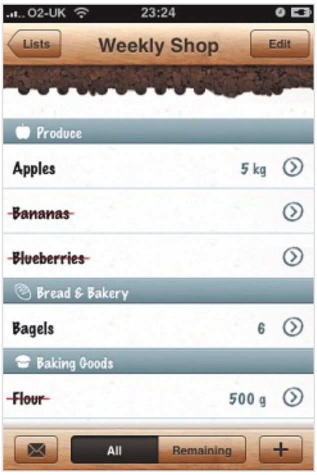
>>SHOPPING LIST

Groceries

£2.39 Let your iPhone help with the shopping

There's nothing stopping you keeping a groceries list in the iPhone's *Notes* app – or on a scrap of paper, you heathen – but using a dedicated application such as *Groceries* has its advantages. Add items to your shopping list – it's great for jotting things down as you think about them throughout the week – and *Groceries* automatically sorts them into aisles for you. As you walk round the store, tap items to mark them as 'got'.

The list of products – and optional brand names – isn't especially UK-friendly, but you can easily add your own, and we love that you can assign quantities (number, weight etc) and also add notes to items. You can reorder the aisles to match your favourite supermarket's layout – though it's not obvious – and create multiple lists. Shopping lists can be emailed and items favourited too. One thing missing is a built-in calculator to add it all up as you go along.



Produce

Apples 5 kg

~~Bananas~~

~~Blueberries~~

Bread & Bakery

Bagels 6

Baking Goods

~~Flour~~ 500 g

VERDICT

★★★★½

"Is it necessary? No. Does it make the weekly shop less stressful? Yes."

>>EMAIL COMPOSER

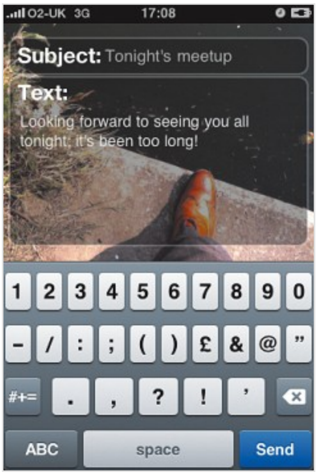
Email 'n Walk

£0.59 Avoid putting your foot in it, as it were

When Pocket Lint did an April Fools joke (http://tinyurl.com/kwqbh2) that proposed using a smartphone's built-in camera to show you the view ahead while you were composing an email to stop you bumping into lampposts, we thought we might have been alone in thinking that it was actually a genius idea. Apparently we weren't, as here's an iPhone version of such as app.

Fire it up – you're presented with a live video feed from the rear-mounted camera, with white text displayed over a translucent black background – and you can enter a subject line and the body; when you hit Send, it passes your text to the *Mail* application for addressing.

As far as it goes, it works, but the angle at which you naturally hold your iPhone when composing a message means you're unlikely to get decent warning for cliffs/lampposts/dog mess. ●



Subject: Tonight's meetup

Text: Looking forward to seeing you all tonight; it's been too long!

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"To get adequate warning, you'd have to hold your iPhone at an odd angle."

Games

» MEET YOUR GAMES GURU
Andy Dyer is a legend, having worked on many games mags. He now gets his gaming fix on his iMac and iPod touch.

● ACTION & ARCADE ● PUZZLE & STRATEGY ● ONLINE ADVENTURE ● iPHONE GAMES

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hooray for Hollywood

If you've ever wanted to produce and direct Hollywood blockbusters, *The Movies: Superstar Edition* gives you the chance. For £35 you can now enjoy Lionhead's Hollywood studio sim bundled with the expansion pack *Stunts & Effects* plus a bonus music soundtrack.
Check out **www.feralinteractive.com**.

Hello Earth

Hot on the heels of *Guitar Hero: Aerosmith* comes *Guitar Hero: World Tour*. This title expands upon the remit of *Guitar Hero* by enabling players to take part in a full-on jam session band-style using different instruments. Play along to Van Halen, The Eagles, Metallica, The Doors and others or use the Music Studio to create rock songs of your own. **www.aspyr.com**.

» PUZZLE ADVENTURE

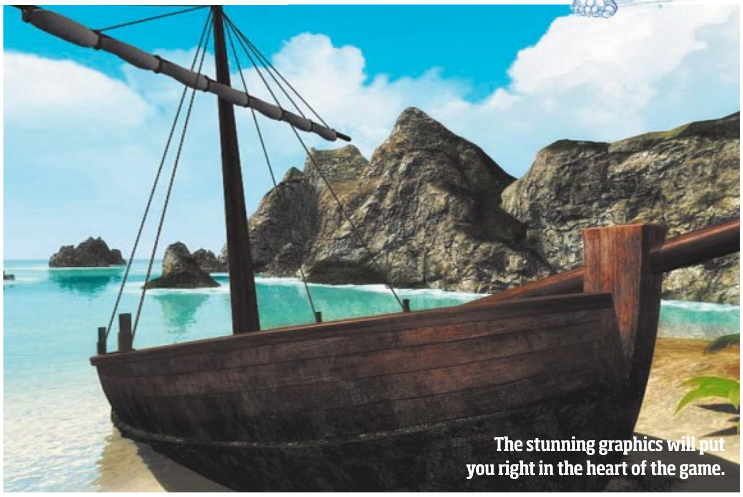
Destination: Treasure Island

£23 A sequel to Stevenson's classic novel? Arrrrrr-harrrrrrr!

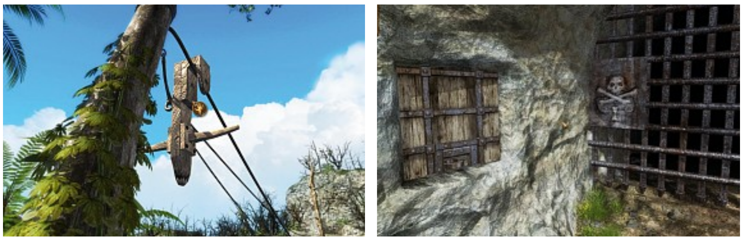
There's a literary bent to this month's games coverage. Elsewhere in this section you'll learn about the complexities of the *Little Red Riding Hood* fairytale. Here though, we can explore the events following Jim Hawkins' adventures in Robert Louis Stevenson's classic pirate novel *Treasure Island*, courtesy of Coladia's new puzzle adventure.

If you've read *Treasure Island* you'll immediately have an interest in exploring *D:TI*. The protagonist is, after all, Jim Hawkins. The game takes place four years after Long John Silver's escape. The authorities are after the peg-legged fellow but no one is aware of his whereabouts. One evening Long John's Parrot visits Jim Hawkins carrying a message from its master stating that Silver has left Jim a treasure chest buried somewhere on Emerald Island. Jim is given a map and a cryptic enigma (a list of clues presented as a riddle) with which to locate the treasure. Unfortunately there are other former colleagues of Long John's who are after the riches.

> *"Has a piratey atmosphere so thick you could slice it with a cutlass…"*



The stunning graphics will put you right in the heart of the game.



Solve the engaging puzzles and collect the items to reveal Long John's secret...

Emerald Island looks great. While not created in true 3D, each location is made up of a beautifully designed 360-degree panorama that you can scroll around using the mouse. As you move from shipwreck to beach, to skull-shaped cave and other such pirate-like locations you need to collect items, combine them in various ways and re-use them on other items to reveal the secret of Long John's gift.

It's not quite the mind-bending enigma that *Myst* is, but still it provides entertaining gentle puzzling with a piratey atmosphere so thick you could slice it with a cutlass.

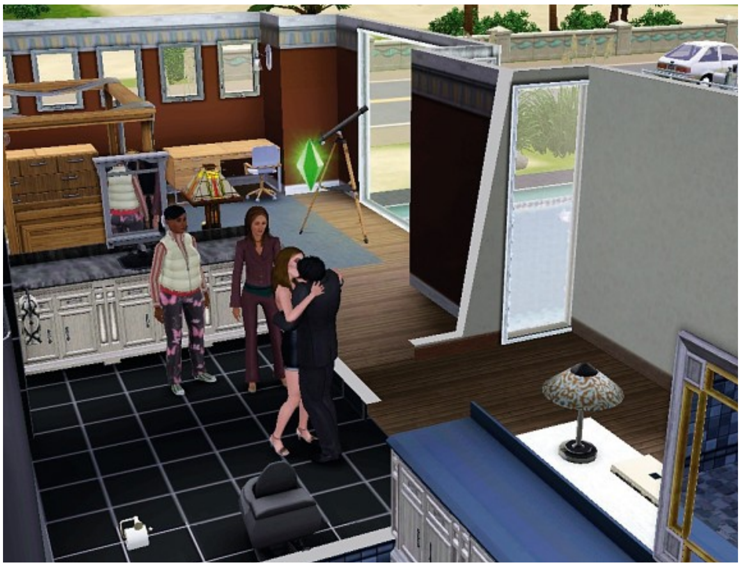
>>SIMULATION

The Sims 3

£40 Electronic Arts proves that a virtual life is even better than the real thing

The franchise of *The Sims* is such a permanent and long-standing feature of the gaming landscape it's impossible to think of anything original to say about it. So we won't bother. Instead we'll dispense with the usual introductory niceties and plunge straight into the review proper.

So, is it third time unlucky for EA's monolithic people sim? Don't be ridiculous. The third evolution of *The Sims* is a triumph. It retains the sandbox-style fun of the previous games while polishing and improving the formula in completely logical ways making it more pleasant to watch, easier to play, just as engrossing as it ever was, and more structured and accessible for those who found it a bit of a turn-off in the past.



Fred had the ladies queuing up for a rather liberal helping of snog à la kitchen.

Create-a-Sim

Your first task will be to create a sim in the still imaginatively titled Create-a-Sim section. This option was a little clumsy in the past but this time around creating a unique sim (or indeed lazily randomising one) is both simple and deeply satisfying. Body size and shape, gender, facial features and clothing can all be tweaked quickly and easily in order to make a rough approximation of yourself, or indeed the 'self' you would like to be. Access the advanced options and you can further tweak your sim's physical features (altering the curvature and thickness of the lips, or making a nose higher set and more slender, for example). The result of this is the ability to generate an avatar that looks almost exactly like you, albeit with a flattering absence of wrinkles, blemishes and un-ironed shirts. It is at this stage you also select your sim's personality traits, which are modes of behaviour that will affect the way you interact with your environment and other sims throughout the rest of your experience. Will you be a friendly family man, a randy singleton, an aggressive outsider? It's up to you.

"Generate an avatar that looks almost exactly like you, albeit with a flattering absence of wrinkles, blemishes and un-ironed shirts"

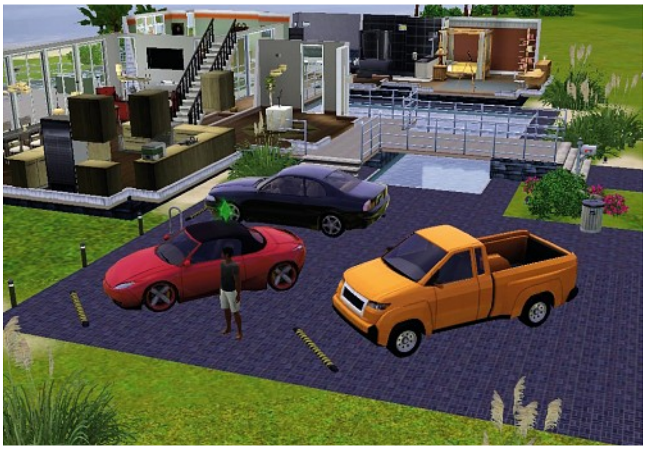
The *Sims 3*'s increased customisation features also extend to the acquiring of a home. Whether you decide to buy a ready-made furnished property, or build an entire house from scratch on an empty plot, the options are extensive right down to the paint you put on each brick of the building or the ambient lighting installed in the understairs cubbyhole in your tiny one-up/one-down.

Freedom to explore

The single biggest improvement, though is your sim's freedom to explore his or her neighbourhood. Expansions of the previous games made attempts to place the sims in the context of a wider environment but it was all a bit clumsy. In *The Sims 3*, having created a character and set up home you can access the city map and travel instantly (well, almost instantly, you have to arrange some sort of transport) to bars, clubs, restaurants, parks, libraries and other amenities where you can meet other sims, strike up relationships, acquire jobs, get into trouble and perform almost any social interaction you might embark upon in the real world (and several you wouldn't).

Given another page we would very much like to go into a great deal more detail about *The Sims 3*. However, having covered the basics, we can only say if you haven't already bought into the whole *Sims* phenomenon, now really is the time to do so.

Create the ultimate lifestyle for your sims as well as a suitable environment to accommodate all their deserved riches.



CONTACTS

Developer: EA games
www.eagames.co.uk
Vendor: EA games
www.eagames.co.uk

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: Intel Core Duo
RAM: 2GB **OS:** Mac OS X 10.5.7 or later **Hard disk:** 6.1GB free
Graphics: ATI X1600 or NVIDIA 7300 GT, 128MB of VRAM, or GMA X3100 (GMA 950 not supported)

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Looks great
- ⊕ More customisable
- ⊕ Explore the city with ease
- ⊕ Goals-based gameplay
- ⊖ It should be an online game
- ⊖ No pets

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Hopefully The Sims 4 will be a fully-interactive online game. In the meantime, The Sims 3 is the perfect sequel."

>> INTERACTIVE STORYBOOK

The Path

$10 (£6) Embark on a bewildering exploration of a classic fairytale

CONTACTS

Developer: Tale of Tales
www.tale-of-tales.com
Vendor: Tale of Tales
www.tale-of-tales.com

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: Intel Core Duo **RAM:** 1GB **OS:** Mac OS X 10.5.6 or later **Hard disk:** 583MB free **Graphics:** ATI X1600 or NVIDIA 7300 GT under Leopard

PROS & CONS

- + Strange and beautiful
- + Unsettling sounds
- + Surreal encounters
- + Fascinating ideas explored
- − Occasional slowdown
- − Finicky graphics settings

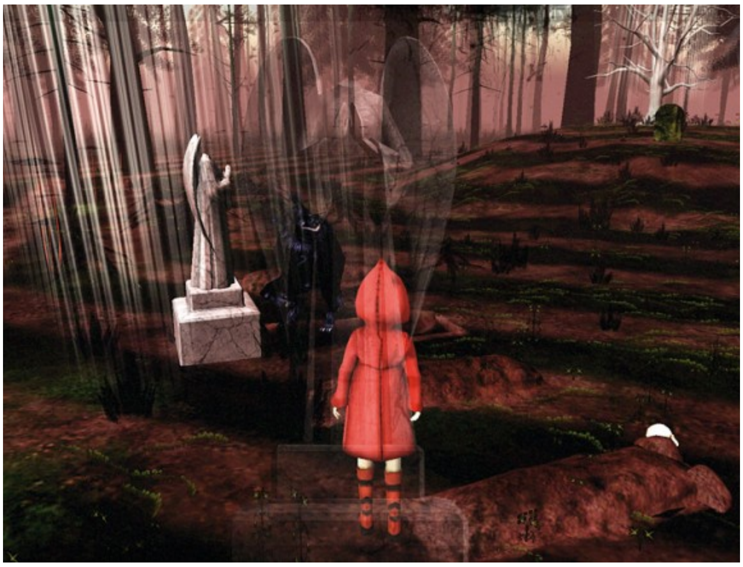
VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A hard sell to casual gamers, but this surreal take on Little Red Riding Hood makes for a fascinating experience."

Despite its looks, don't be fooled into thinking *The Path* is a *Silent Hill*-style survival horror game. It most definitely isn't. In fact, you could even say that it's hardly a game at all. *The Path* is neither passive cinema, nor an entirely interactive game, but attempts to embrace the aesthetics and mechanics of both these things while, at the same time, exhibiting a desire to be something more literary and nebulous.

And if that sounds like a bucket-load of pretentious old clack to you, then it might be time to stop reading. If on the other hand you believe that videogames can be as legitimate an art form as any other visual or aural medium, then read on.



More than just a game, The Path provides a detailed exploration into female adolescence.

Little Red Riding Hood

The longer you play *The Path* the more you'll get out of it. And for sure, if you take the time to explore the provenance of the *Little Red Riding Hood* fairytale before you play, you'll get even more satisfaction from this expansion of the classic allegorical story. There are elements here of Charles Perrault's *Little Red Riding Hood*, The Brothers Grimm's *Little Red Cap*, Charles Marelles' *Little Golden Hood* and any number of other European folktales based on the premise of a young girl's reckless exploration of the backwoods surrounding her normal environment.

The more you get involved with The Path the more it will give back to you.

The gameplay here is simply a matter of exploration. There are various objects to collect, and specific areas to discover, but in the main scheme of things your aim is really just to take the game's six protagonists through the woods to Grandmother's house and unearth some secrets along the way.

> *"The Path is neither passive cinema, nor a entirely interactive game, but embraces the aesthetics and mechanics of both"*

We have now become familiar with the idea that *Little Red Riding Hood* is a coming-of-age tale charged with themes of sexual awakening, and while there's nothing particularly explicit about the content of *The Path*, some scenes here are more suggestive of the loss of innocence than anything in Perrault's or the Grimm's interpretations and *The Path*'s creators have, it seems, wilfully focused on the darker side of the moral messages contained within the original stories. Whereas the Brothers Grimm used a few hundred words to rattle through a tale of disregarded maternal advice, masculine predation and retribution, Auriea Harvey and Michaël Samyn (namely *The Path*'s creators) have taken the long view, exploring the ideas of loss of innocence. They present the theme in greater detail over several different stages of an adolescent girl's formative years. Sexual, emotional, physical, and even pharmaceutical temptations are all explored, though not always fully explained. Exploration (carried out in third-person perspective) leads to temptation, revelation… violation, even. However, you'll find there is never at any time a satisfactory conclusion to the experience. It's unsettling, but always fascinating.

Rewarding exploration

So, we'll say it again. If you're after a horror game in the traditional sense, don't bother with *The Path*. This is an experience that rewards the player only with thought-provoking obfuscation. But as with most things in life, it's good to stray from the path once in a while.

>> iPOD/iPHONE SIMULATION

The Sims 3

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£5.99 The Sims invade your iPhone!

Say hello to the iPhone version of *The Sims 3*. Unlike many other iPhone apps based on major game franchises, this is not a basic character creation program or even a 'lite' version of the game. This is a fully-fledged *Sims* experience in its own right. Character creation, everyday tasks, relationships and goals all add up to a game that feels like a glorious full-sized version of *The Sims*.

The game crashes a bit (but it never results in any loss of progress) and it's a touch over-priced (it would be good to have a £5 cap on iPhone games) but, otherwise, this is a belter.

CONTACTS

Developer: EA Games

Available from the App Store

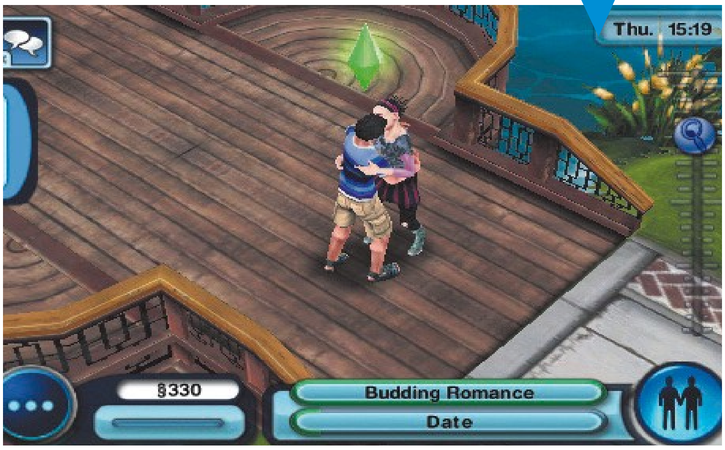
VERDICT

★★★★★

"This Sims experience adapts beautifully to the iPhone."

>> iPHONE & iPOD TOUCH

You can download these games from Apple's App Store.



Now you can have a cheeky mini romance in your teabreak thanks to The Sims on your iPhone.

>> iPOD/iPHONE ADVENTURE

Myst

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£3.49 Classic puzzle adventuring in your palm

Fans of *Myst* should need no persuasion to buy this game. If you haven't yet experienced the game (which appeared on Apple computers 16 years ago) now is the time, because this version is a totally faithful recreation of the original, but with better visuals and some smartly implemented touch controls.

The visuals remain as enchanting as when the original game first appeared but newcomers might be slightly disconcerted by the static nature of the environments (there's little animation and the scenes are not true 3D, but snapshots of locations viewed from various angles).

Ignore the limitations though, because *Myst* is all about the mysterious and beautiful locations, obscure puzzles and often unsettling ambient sound effects.

CONTACTS

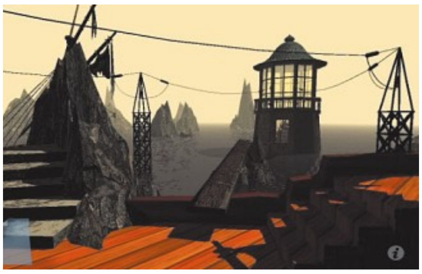
Developer: Cyan Worlds

Available from the App Store

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Intelligent design and storytelling. Not to be, er, myst…"



The environments may seem a little static to newcomers but get over this and you'll be hooked.

>> iPOD/iPHONE SPORT

International Athletics

£3.49 Track and field sports with a spin

When it comes to quality and quantity versus price *International Athletics* should be a gold medalist. The developers have done a great job of presenting more than a dozen track-and-field sports in full 3D. There's no official event sponsorship, but the medal tables, personal bests and world records featured will keep you coming back again and again until you've swept the board.

The only downside is that the throwing events all use a similar play mechanic so there's not much to choose between. Other than that this is a splendid sports sim. If publishers Ghostlight has any sense they'll pitch for a London 2012 licence. On the evidence of this they'd probably get it. ●

CONTACTS

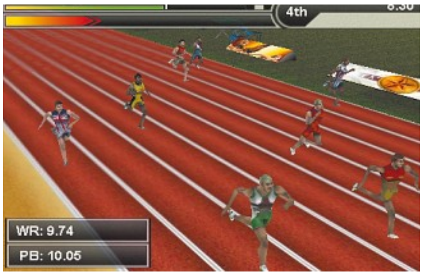
Developer: The Code Monkeys

Available from the App Store

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"If the London Olympics are as fun as this, then roll on 2012."



International Athletics speeds ahead when it comes to gameplay, looks and addictiveness.

EPSON
Epson Stylus S21
Canon
iP2600
HP Photosmart D5460
Z2320
Z2490
HP Desk

We compare six budget-level inkjet printers for speed, efficiency, design and more.

>> INKJET PRINTERS

Fit to print?

Ian Osborne puts six budget-priced inkjet printers through their paces to find a deserved champion

These days, multifunction devices always seem to grab the headlines. Massive price falls over the past few years have brought them within reach of just about every Mac user, and having a printer, scanner, photocopier and possibly even a fax machine in a single unit is incredibly convenient and easy on desk space. Yet the single-function printer is far from dead. Not everyone needs the additional functionality offered by an all-in-one. For some, a straightforward printer is sufficient. We got our hands on six low-cost printers from leading manufacturers and put them through several challenges to find out which one would emerge triumphant.

The rules were simple. Firstly, it must be an A4 printer. Devices that print on larger-sized paper serve different needs and markets to the standard A4 printer, as do those designed purely for printing photographs. Also, the printers had to be inkjets. As we want to compare like with like here, throwing in a laser printer wouldn't have been acceptable. Finally, we're looking at budget-level home machines here, not office-ready high-end devices. Some cost more than others, and the price is of course reflected in the overall scores, but all these printers are low-cost devices retailing at under £100 each.

So which is the best low-cost inkjet printer? Let's take a look…

> *"Not everybody needs the functionality of an all-in-one. For some, a straightforward printer is sufficient“*

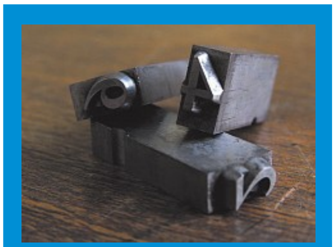


Image courtesy of Flickr/Threedots

>> DID YOU KNOW?

Printing techniques using carved wooden blocks were developed in East Asia during the second century AD. The first practical movable type printing was invented by Johannes Gutenberg in the middle of the 15th century. The first inkjet printer didn't appear until 1976.

On test this issue

Canon PIXMA iP2600
£35

Epson Stylus S21
£50

HP Deskjet D1560
£30

HP Photosmart D5460
£78

Lexmark Z2320
£40

Lexmark Z2490
£35

The problem-free Canon scored high for its simplicity of use.

TEST ONE

Ease of use

The journey from box to first printout…

None of the printers were particularly difficult to install or set up, although certain problems did crop up. Installing the Epson S21 software demanded a high amount of user intervention, where our administrator password had to be tapped in five times. The HP printers were easy to get up and running, though the Deskjet D1560 lost a mark due to its confusing instructions – follow the diagrams too literally, and you'll fit the ink tanks back to front.

Both Lexmark printers demanded downloading drivers from the company's homepage, as the ones in the box weren't compatible with Leopard. Not a massive annoyance, but as the operating system is two years old this October, it's a situation that shouldn't have arisen. The Z2490's WiFi functionality was refreshingly easy to use, though it initially proved resistant to being connected by USB. We had to reinstall the drivers before we could get it up and running.

TEST RESULTS

Canon PIXMA iP2600	★★★★☆
Epson Stylus S21	★★⯪☆☆
HP Deskjet D1560	★★★☆☆
HP Photosmart D5460	★★★★☆
Lexmark Z2320	★★★☆☆
Lexmark Z2490	★★☆☆☆

TEST TWO

Design

Looking at aesthetics, build quality and functionality

The HP printers scored highly. The D5460 was well built, feature-packed and stylish, though perhaps a little too bulky. The D1560 was anything but bulky, offering the smallest form factor of all the printers, especially when closed, just the thing if desk space is at a premium. Both HPs included a Dashboard widget showing current ink levels, which was a very useful bonus.

Canon's iP2600 offered a solid build, but was bulky and ugly. The shiny black finish showed up every scratch and blemish. The Epson S21 fared even worse, with a flimsy build quality and a separate slot-in paper feeder and tray, both of which are prone to damage or loss over time.

The Lexmark printers both put in workmanlike performances. They were solid, and looked perfectly fine. It's worth noting, though, that the Z2490 is the only printer on test with a WiFi option, and was also the only one to supply a USB cable in the box.

TEST RESULTS

Canon PIXMA iP2600	★★⯪☆☆
Epson Stylus S21	★★☆☆☆
HP Deskjet D1560	★★★★☆
HP Photosmart D5460	★★★★☆
Lexmark Z2320	★★★☆☆
Lexmark Z2490	★★★☆☆

HP Photosmart D5460

The well-built and stylish HP Photosmart is only let down by bulk.

BUYER'S GUIDE / What you should look for in a printer

When choosing a new printer, there are several questions you should ask yourself. Firstly, are you ever likely to need scanning, photocopying or fax capabilities? If so, you might be better off with an all-in-one, which combines these functions into a single device, saving room on your desk. Whatever you decide, keep desk space in mind.

What sort of printing will you be doing? If it's mostly for office-type use, printing off large volumes of text pages, speed and text quality will be important. If it's mainly for photos, look for high-quality colour reproduction.

Check the connectivity options. If you're at the budget end of the market, you'll be looking for something to connect to a single Mac, but is it worth spending a little more and getting a network or wireless printer? Whether these additional features are worth the spend depends on how you plan to use the printer.

Finally, printers today can be deceptively cheap. But remember that inks are not. Before you buy any printer check how much it costs to replace the ink tanks, and whether you can buy refilled cartridges or even refill them yourself. An ultra-cheap printer could prove an expensive mistake in the long run.

brother
M
C
Y
BK

Ink can be expensive so check the price before you buy the printer.

>> TEST THREE

Photo quality

How did images turn out on photo and standard paper?

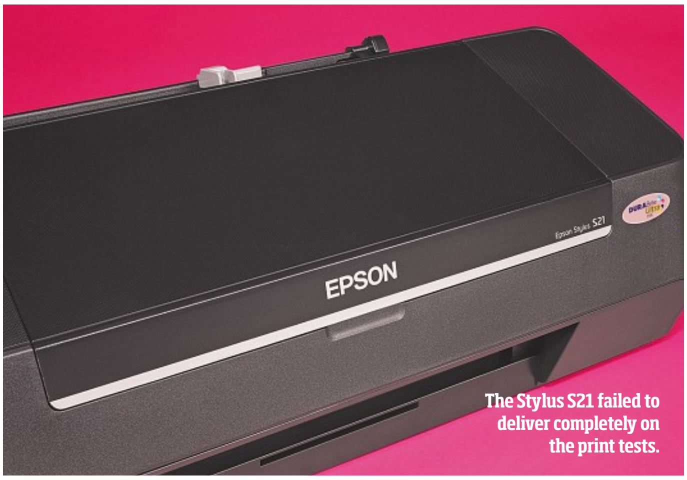
We carried out two photo tests for each printer, one on plain photocopier paper under *Preview*'s default settings, and one on photo paper at the highest quality level available.

As you'd expect, the HP Photosmart D5460 came out ahead, with vivid colours and clear detail. The plain-paper print was slightly banded, but fine for a rapid printout, and the high-quality photo-paper print was superb, offering everything you'd expect from a photo print. The D5460's stablemate, the D1560, also put in a credible performance. Its plain-paper print was banded and a little washed out, but the photo-quality print looked great. Considering it's the cheapest printer here and the Deskjet series isn't built for photo printing, that's commendable.

The Lexmarks had a vibrant but dark photo print, but the Epson offered very mediocre results. Its plain-paper print was speckled and dark, and on photo paper it had a yellow hue.

>> TEST RESULTS

Canon PIXMA iP2600	★★★½☆
Epson Stylus S21	★★½☆☆
HP Deskjet D1560	★★★½☆
HP Photosmart D5460	★★★★★
Lexmark Z2320	★★★☆☆
Lexmark Z2490	★★★☆☆



The Stylus S21 failed to deliver completely on the print tests.

Lexmark Z2320: a sharp performance but with blips.

>> TEST FOUR

Text quality

Did they shine when printing the written word?

The Epson S21's first attempt at our text test was so bad we had to run its head alignment and nozzle cleaning utilities and try again – it was the only printer that required this. Results improved, but there were still misaligned letters, character bleed and the occasional white stripe caused by clogging print heads.

The Z2320 was clear and sharp, but let down by occasional misalignment. All the other printers put in a solid performance. The HPs produced especially polished printouts, with the cheaper, built-for-text Deskjet model actually outperforming the Photosmart that cost two and a half times as much. Their sheer consistency and sharpness at very low point sizes gives them the edge over the Canon and the Lexmark Z2490, though all four of these printers offered very agreeable results. Put it this way: you wouldn't be embarrassed to print a letter to your bank manager using any of them.

>> TEST RESULTS

Canon PIXMA iP2600	★★★☆☆
Epson Stylus S21	★½☆☆☆
HP Deskjet D1560	★★★★☆
HP Photosmart D5460	★★★½☆
Lexmark Z2320	★★½☆☆
Lexmark Z2490	★★★☆☆

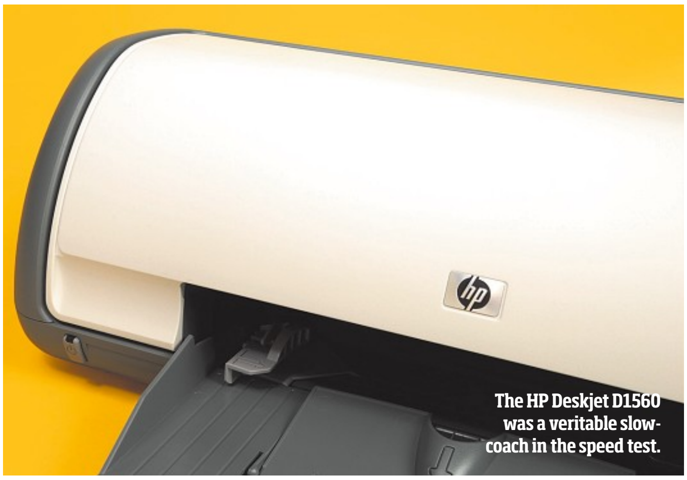
>> HOW WE TESTED / Putting the printers through their paces

We have devised a series of tests to compare the printers. Firstly, there's the photo test featuring a test image that offers a wide range of pictures, solid colours, shadows, skin tones, details and a greyscale ramp, which covers the full range of greys from solid black to solid white. Ideally, a printer should be able to reproduce this smoothly and clearly. We check for banding, where the transition to the next shade is not as smooth as it should be. We printed a 'normal' photo or two as well, to get a good idea of its real-world performance, and tested it on both ordinary and photo paper.

Secondly, there's the text test. Our text-rendering PDF offers a range of point sizes in two different fonts, Arial and Baskerville. Print size ranges from a tiny four-point to a jumbo 18-point. Here we look at how vibrant the text looks. Is the lettering smooth and consistent, or does it jar and fracture at low point sizes? Are the edges of the characters sharp? Are the diagonals smooth, or are they fractured due to misregistration? Does the ink bleed into the paper?

Finally, there's our speed tests. We time how long it takes for each printer to reproduce our photo test card and a 20-page text document.

We looked out for colours and clarity in the printouts.



The HP Deskjet D1560 was a veritable slow-coach in the speed test.

TEST FIVE

The speed test

How fast do the machines print text and photos?

First we timed how long it took to print a 20-page text document, and then we timed a high-quality photo print. The speediest printer in the picture test was the Canon, which produced a quality print in two minutes, 25 seconds. The Lexmarks came second, taking five minutes each, followed by the HP Photosmart D5460, which went over six minutes.

In the text test, fastest off the block was the D5460, which got through 20 pages in two minutes, 27 seconds. The Lexmarks put in another solid performance, coming in under three minutes (the Z2490 was a few seconds quicker than its stablemate in both tests), and the Canon's three minutes, 23 seconds was a respectable enough score.

The Epson S21 and the HP Deskjet D1560 both performed poorly, especially the Epson, which took over nine minutes to print the text and almost 20 minutes for the photo. The Deskjet was quicker at five minutes 43 seconds and 14 minutes 32 seconds respectively.

TEST RESULTS

Canon PIXMA iP2600	★★★★½
Epson Stylus S21	★☆☆☆☆
HP Deskjet D1560	★★☆☆☆
HP Photosmart D5460	★★★★☆
Lexmark Z2320	★★★½☆
Lexmark Z2490	★★★½☆

TEST SIX

Value for money

Which model gave the most bang for your buck?

HP's Deskjet D1560 was a revelation. Small, convenient and only £30 (based on current prices at Amazon.co.uk), it put in an excellent all-round performance. It's great for people with modest needs, but it's not fast.

The Lexmark Z2490 is a Dixons-exclusive, and the company is currently selling it online for £35, a bargain for a printer with WiFi connectivity. Originally selling for almost £80, the price drop makes its stablemate, the Z2320, pointless. Not that there's anything wrong with it as a printer – it's just eclipsed by a better-specced model going for less.

You get a lot for your money with the HP Photosmart D5460, which boasts extra features such as a colour screen, disc on-body printing and a card reader, but at £78, it's by far the most expensive printer on test here. Whether the extra features are worth the extra money is up to you, but at this price you might be better off with an all-in-one anyway.

TEST RESULTS

Canon PIXMA iP2600	★★☆☆☆
Epson Stylus S21	★☆☆☆☆
HP Deskjet D1560	★★★★☆
HP Photosmart D5460	★★★☆☆
Lexmark Z2320	★★☆☆☆
Lexmark Z2490	★★★★☆

LEXMARK
WiFi
Z2490

At £35 and with WiFi connectivity the Lexmark Z2490 is a bargain.

THE WINNER / HP Deskjet D1560

Before deciding which printer is best for you, ask yourself what you want from a printer and what you'll be using it for. When selecting our winner, we were looking for a convenient, cost-effective printer for a low-needs user. And with this in mind, the HP Deskjet D1560 came up trumps.

The HP Deskjet D1560 puts in a great all-round performance, offering excellent text printing and good photo prints. It also takes up little room on your desk when the paper tray is folded up, important for light users who don't want to make room for a bulkier model. This model boasts a solid build-quality too.

One thing the D1560 doesn't have is speed. If you need a fast printer, then this is definitely not the machine for you. First-party inks are on the expensive side too. But our theoretical low-needs user is unlikely to use it to print out an entire *iPhoto* library or a manuscript for their latest novel, and third-party inks and refills will be more than good enough for his or her needs.

Our runner-up is the Lexmark Z2490. A solid printer with WiFi connectivity at £35 is a bargain, but make sure you can source low-cost third-party inks or refills.

HP Deskjet D1560
Mac FORMAT Winner!

INKJET PRINTERS / AT A GLANCE

Canon PIXMA iP2600

★★★☆☆

Epson Stylus S21

★★☆☆☆

HP Deskjet D1560

Mac FORMAT Winner!

★★★★½

SPECIFICATIONS			
Price*	**£35**	**£50**	**£30**
Latest price on TechRadar	www.techradar.com/612881	www.techradar.com/612931	www.techradar.com/613001
Connectivity	USB	USB	USB
Number of ink tanks	Two	Four	Two
Ink cartridges	PG-37, PG38	T0891, T0892, T0893, T0894	HP 21, HP 22
Max resolution	Up to 4800 x 1200 dpi	Up to 5760 x 1440 dpi	Up to 4800 x 1200 dpi
Automatic sheet feeder	100 sheets	80 sheets	80 sheets
Price for full set of first-party ink *	£22	£21.50	£22
Dimensions	44.2 x 25.4 x 14.2 cm	43.5 x 21.9 x 16.5 cm	42 x 26 x 14 cm
Weight	3.7 kg	2.8 kg	2 kg

HP Photosmart D5460

★★★½☆

Lexmark Z2320

★★★☆☆

Lexmark Z2490

★★★★☆

SPECIFICATIONS			
Price*	**£78**	**£40**	**£35**
Latest price on TechRadar	www.techradar.com/612968	www.techradar.com/612940	www.techradar.com/612917
Connectivity	USB	USB	USB / WiFi
Number of ink tanks	Five	Two	Two
Ink cartridges	HP Original 364	Lexmark No 14, No 15	Lexmark No 23, No 24
Max resolution	9600 x 2400 dpi	4800 x 1200 dp	4800 x 1200 dpi
Automatic sheet feeder	125 sheets	100 sheets	100 sheets
Price for full set of first-party ink *	£29	£35	£49
Dimensions	45.8 x 38.6 x 18.3 cm	43.2 x 21.5 x 12.5 cm	45.9 x 19.9 x 12.1 cm
Weight	5.8 kg	2.4 kg	2.61 kg

* Current price on Amazon.co.uk, to the nearest pound, apart from the Lexmark Z2490, which is a Dixons-exclusive.

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164
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> “The iPhone is not just a great phone – Jobs called it the best iPod Apple has ever made”

» iPHONE 3G & 3GS P119

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Buyers’ Guide

- DESKTOPS
- LAPTOPS
- iPODS
- iPHONES
- SOFTWARE

Graham Barlow
Editor

This month everything changed in the Apple notebook line-up. Previously we had the odd situation of three 13-inch notebooks called a MacBook; one with a white polycarbonate case and two with an aluminium unibody. Now Apple has simplified the line-up – the new rule is that if it’s got an aluminium case then it’s called a MacBook Pro. This makes a cleaner distinction between the MacBook and MacBook Pro ranges.

You’ll also be aware that Apple has refreshed the iPhone range with the new iPhone 3GS, but don’t forget the old iPhone 3G is still for sale and it’s much cheaper than the new iPhone. If you can live without video recording and a better camera then it could save you cash. Don’t forget the iPod touch is still an option if you want to enjoy what’s on offer from the Apple App Store but already have a phone you’re quite happy with. The choice, as they say, is yours!

» BUYING ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST

Our mission is to ensure that when you buy a Mac-related product, you are completely informed about its best and worst features. We have a cast-iron policy of editorial independence. **For the latest prices and full review see the TechRadar URL listed next to each review.**

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How to buy a new Mac

Not sure which Mac to buy? We'll help you make the right choice

» DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The latest iMac ships with a brand-new compact keyboard by default, unless you specifically request one with a keypad when you order.

We've certainly seen a few changes over Apple's hardware range in recent months, and this continued with new ranges announced at WWDC in June. The MacBook Pro range in particular has had quite an overhaul, with an extended range of laptops at more affordable prices, but still with the incredible power that we're used to with the family.

There is now only one flavour of MacBook, and the MacBook Air duo has seen a processor boost. The changes complete the recent updates, which include a long-overdue Mac mini upgrade, with more power, hard drive space and RAM. The iMac has updated processor speeds, RAM and hard drive space up to 1TB and the Mac Pro now comes as either Quad-Core or 8-Core, offering the most powerful Mac yet.

Desktop Macs are more powerful, but Apple's laptops won't leave you disappointed, either.

> *"Desktop Macs are more powerful, but if you need to use your Mac on the go, Apple's laptops certainly won't leave you disappointed"*

Making your mind up

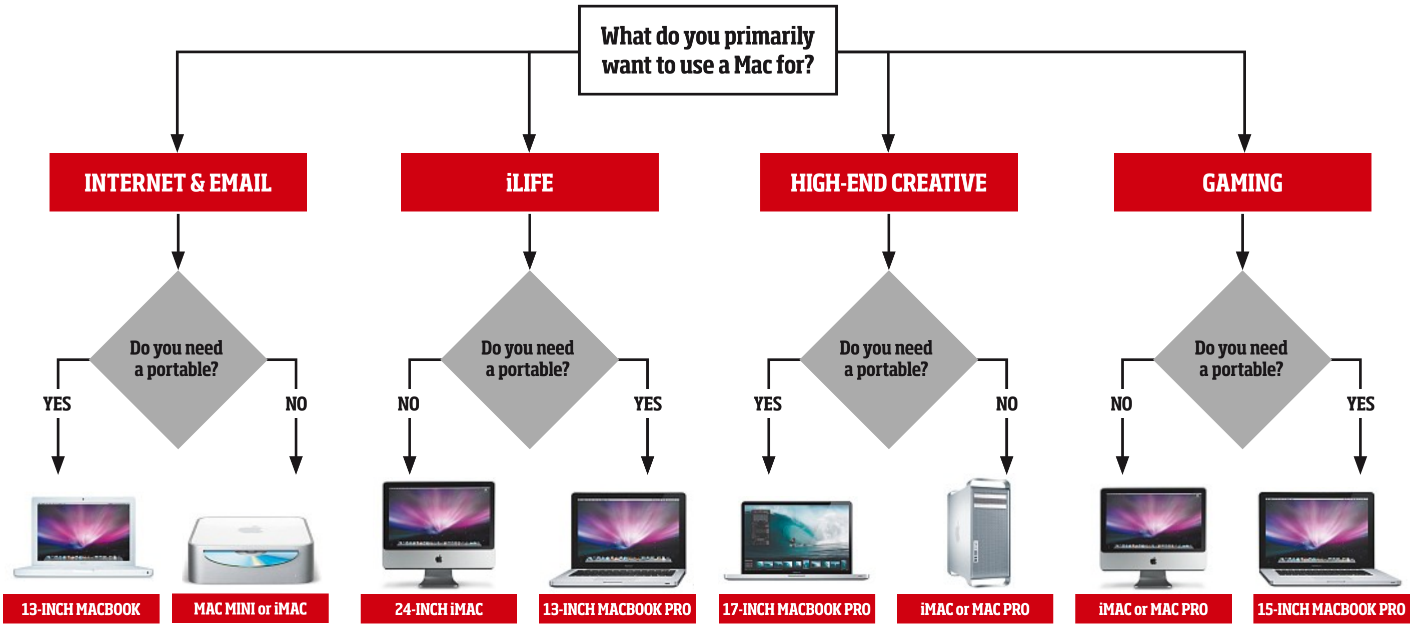
All Macs come with Intel Core 2 Duo chips, as a minimum, meaning that whichever Mac you choose you know it will be powerful. So now you need to choose whether you need a laptop or a desktop. If you work on the move then you need a laptop.

Laptop choice is between the MacBook Pro, MacBook and MacBook Air. The stylish white MacBook is just £749, and with its 2.13GHz processor is great for less intensive work, such as the *iLife* apps. It's also the ideal laptop for students.

While the MacBook range has been downsized, the MacBook Pro family had been extended and is more affordable. As its name suggests, the MacBook Pro is ideal for more processor-hungry work like video-editing or running 3D programs, as they run at higher speeds and have a faster hard drive. Starting us off are the 13-inch models with 2.26 or 2.53GHz processor and up to 4GB RAM. There are now three 15-inch versions to choose from: 2.53GHz, 2.66GHz or 2.8GHz. From £1,299, these mid-level MacBook Pros offer more screen space than the 13-inch versions and improved graphics. They

Apple offers three choices of desktop Mac. The Mac mini may look tiny, but it packs a punch.

CHOOSING A MAC / WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?


What do you primarily want to use a Mac for?
INTERNET & EMAIL
iLIFE
HIGH-END CREATIVE
GAMING
Do you need a portable?
YES
NO
NO
YES
YES
NO
NO
YES
13-INCH MACBOOK
MAC MINI or iMAC
24-INCH iMAC
13-INCH MACBOOK PRO
17-INCH MACBOOK PRO
iMAC or MAC PRO
iMAC or MAC PRO
15-INCH MACBOOK PRO

now have built-in SD card slots to import your digital photos. Finally we have the daddy of the family, the 2.8GHz 17-inch version with a 500GB hard drive and up to eight hours of wireless productivity. Finally, the thin and light 13-inch MacBook Air has seen a speed boost and price drop. It does lack a built-in DVD drive and only has one USB 2.0 port, but it's ideally suited to a regular business traveller who takes advantage of wireless networking. An external SuperDrive will set you back an extra £64.

> *"The 2.66GHz 17-inch MacBook Pro lasts up to eight hours on one charge, so it's even better for working on the move than ever before"*

Mac desktops

If a laptop isn't for you, you have the choice of a Mac mini, iMac or Mac Pro. If you're on a budget or desk space is limited, go for a Mac mini. For £499 you get a 2.0GHz machine with 1GB RAM and 120GB hard drive, or a 2.0GHz with 2GB RAM and 320GB hard drive for £649. You will need to provide a monitor, keyboard and mouse, though.

The iMac comes in four flavours: 20-inch 2.66GHz, 24-inch 2.66GHz, 24-inch 2.93GHz or 24-inch 3.06GHz with a 1TB hard drive, from £949. These all-in-ones almost rival a Mac Pro, although for really intensive work you will need to buy Apple's high-end Mac. With a basic spec of one Quad-Core 2.66GHz Intel Xeon processor, there's nothing you can't throw at a Mac Pro. With numerous configuration options, you can be sure that the Mac you order is built to your requirements. Prices start from £1,899, but with the options of 32GB RAM upgrades and larger hard drives, you could spend an absolute fortune. If you opt for a Mac mini or Mac Pro, you'll need a display, and Apple's Cinema Displays are ideal, with the 30-inch HD display at £1,173 or the 24-inch LED display at £635.

All Macs come with Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard and the *iLife '09* suite. ●

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The MacBook range has recently been upgraded, with the 13-inch aluminium MacBook becoming a MacBook Pro.

The latest portable Macs come complete with a gorgeous and hard-wearing aluminium finish.

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iMac

Updated March 2009

20-inch 2.66GHz
£949
- 2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 20-inch glossy widescreen (1,680x1,050 pixels)
- 2GB RAM (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 320GB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 • Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard

24-inch 2.66GHz
£1,199
- 2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 24-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,200 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 640GB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 • Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard

24-inch 2.93GHz
£1,499
- 2.93GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 24-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,200 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 640GB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 with 256MB of GDDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 • Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard

24-inch 3.06GHz
£1,799
- 3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 24-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,200 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 1TB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce GT 130 with 512MB of GDDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800 • Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard

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Mac mini

>>DID YOU KNOW THIS?

Despite being tiny, the latest Mac mini from Apple now has five USB 2.0 ports and one FireWire 800 port.

Updated March 2009

2.0GHz 120GB
£499
- 2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 1GB RAM (1x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 120GB Serial ATA, 5,400 rpm hard drive
- 3MB shared L2 cache
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 128MB of shared DDR3 SDRAM
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- AirPort Extreme (802.11n)
- 1x FireWire 800 port
- 5x USB 2.0 • Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09
- Mini-DVI to DVI adaptor

2.0GHz 320GB
£649
- 2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 2GB RAM (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 320GB Serial ATA, 5,400 rpm hard drive
- 3MB shared L2 cache NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB of shared DDR3 SDRAM
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- AirPort Extreme (802.11n)
- 1x FireWire 800 port
- 5x USB 2.0 • Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '09
- Mini-DVI to DVI adaptor

Mac Pro

Quad-Core

£1,899

• 2.66GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon • 3GB RAM (3x 1GB DDR3 ECC SDRAM) • NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 with 512MB of GDDR3 with Mini DisplayPort and dual-link DVI video output • 640GB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • 3x open full-length PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FireWire 800 ports • Keyboard & Mighty Mouse

8-Core

£2,499

• 2x 2.66Hz Quad-Core Intel Xeon • 6GB RAM (6x 1GB DDR3 ECC) • NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 with 512MB of GDDR3 with Mini DisplayPort and dual-link DVI video output • 640GB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD± RW/CD-RW) • 3x open full-length PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FireWire 800 ports • Keyboard & Mighty Mouse

Updated March 2009

13-inch 1.86GHz

£1,149

• 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 1.86GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor • 2GB DDR3 SDRAM • 120GB Serial ATA, 4,200rpm • Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM • Mac OS X Leopard • 1x USB 2.0 port • Mini DisplayPort • MagSafe power adaptor

13-inch 2.13GHz

£1,349

• 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 2.13GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor • 2GB DDR3 SDRAM • 128GB solid-state drive • Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM • Mac OS X Leopard • 1x USB 2.0 port • Mini DisplayPort • MagSafe power adaptor

13-inch white 2.13GHz

£749

• 13.3-inch glossy widescreen, 1,280x800 pixels • 2.13GHz Intel Core 2 Duo • 3MB shared L2 cache • 2GB RAM (2x DDR2SDRAM) • 160GB Serial ATA,5,400rpm • 8x SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/ DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR2 SDRAM • AirPort Extreme • Built-in iSight video camera • Bluetooth 2.0

13-inch 2.26GHz

£899

• 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 2.26GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache • 2GB (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 160GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 SDRAM • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

13-inch 2.53GHz

£1,149

• 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 250GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 SDRAM • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

15-inch 2.53GHz

£1,299

• 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels • 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 250GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB GDDR3 memory • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

15-inch 2.66GHz

£1,499

• 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels • 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 320GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB GDDR3 memory + 9600M GT with 256MB GDDR3 memory • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

15-inch 2.8GHz

£1,699

• 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels • 2.8GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 6MB shared L2 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 500GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB GDDR3 memory + 9600M GT with 512MB GDDR3 memory • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card

17-inch 2.8GHz

£1,849

• 17-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,920x1,200 pixels • 2.8GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 6MB shared L2 cache • 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 500GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 SDRAM + 9600M GT with 512MB GDDR3 memory • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 3x USB 2.0, 1x ExpressCard/34 slot

Updated June 2009

MacBook Air

MacBook

MacBook Pro

iPod
Music
Videos
Photos
Podcasts
Extras
Settings
Shuffle Songs
Now Playing
MENU
Now Playing
Beautiful
Akon
MENU

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> *"The iPod touch has a generous screen, and paired with Apple's Multi-Touch gesture-based interface, it's simply a joy to use"*

How to buy an iPod

The iPod family has never looked better; we help you find your ideal model

Which iPod you choose depends a lot on what kind of person you are. If your music library is small – look at the bottom of your **iTunes** window when you're clicked on **Library** – you can get away with a cheaper device, but if you have a generous collection you'll need to make some tough choices.

While most of us only listen to a fraction of our music – thanks to Playlists and Smart Playlists, and the iPod shuffle's Autofill – many prefer being able to carry their whole collection with them. If you have a large library, the only practical choice if you're one of the latter types is the iPod classic; it's the only iPod in Apple's current line-up to use a hard disk rather than flash-based storage, and while this does come at the expense of resilience – anecdotally at least, most iPod repairs are necessitated by a failed hard disk – you get phenomenal bang for buck. The 120GB iPod classic is 21 times cheaper per GB than the 1GB iPod shuffle. Also available is a new 4GB shuffle, in black or silver, which introduces the VoiceOver technology. This enables the iPod to tell you what song is playing, who's performing it and what your playlist is called.

Slimline nano

The best compromise is the iPod nano. The tall, slimline nano has a 2.5-inch screen, which is still too small to watch anything more than a music video or video podcast, but it's crisp and the 8GB and 16GB capacities are sufficient. The choice of colour is vast, and there's a nano for everyone.

The iPod touch is in another league. It has a generous screen, and paired with Apple's innovative Multi-Touch gesture-based interface, it's a joy to use. It boasts WiFi, can browse the web and manage email. It can run third-party apps, available from the App Store, and its new, low price makes it great value. See the box opposite for a comparison with the iPhone. ●

Updated September 2008
MENU

iPod classic

iPod classic 120GB

£175

- Up to 30,000 songs
- Up to 25,000 photos
- Up to 150 hours of video
- Available in black and silver
- 2.5-inch screen
- 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 36 hours (audio)
- Battery lasts up to 6 hours (video)
- 103.5x61.8x10.5mm
- 140g

iPod nano 8GB

£107

- Up to 2,000 songs
- Up to 7,000 photos
- Up to 8 hours of video
- Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED) • 2-inch diagonal screen • 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 4 hours (video)
- 90.7x38.7x6.2mm
- 36.8g

iPod nano 16GB

£146

- Up to 4,000 songs
- Up to 14,000 photos
- Up to 16 hours of video
- Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED) • 2-inch diagonal screen • 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 4 hours (video)
- 90.7x38.7x6.2mm
- 36.8g

Updated September 2008
MENU

iPod nano

iPod shuffle

iPod shuffle 4GB
£59

- Up to 1,000 songs
- No ability to display photos or videos
- Available in silver and black
- No screen
- VoiceOver technology enables iPod to talk to you
- Battery lasts up to 10 hours (audio)
- 45.2x17.5x7.8mm
- 10.7g

iPod shuffle 1GB
£31

- Up to 240 songs
- No ability to display photos or videos
- Available in silver, blue, green, pink and (PRODUCT) RED
- No screen
- Battery lasts up to 12 hours (audio) • 27.3x41.2x10.5mm
- 15.6g

Updated March 2009

iPhone

Updated June 2009

Voice Control
call
play
shuffle
Cancel
315° NW
8 of 38

iPhone 3G 8GB
£342.50

- Available in black
- 3.5-inch widescreen
- 320x480 pixels • WiFi (802.11b/g)• Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 7 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (talktime)
- 300 hours (standby)
- 115.5x62.1x12.3mm • 133g

For contract and tariff info go to www.o2.co.uk

iPhone 3GS 16GB
£440.40

- Available in black or white
- 3.5-inch widescreen
- 320x480 pixels • WiFi (802.11b/g) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
- Photo and video geotagging
- Battery lasts up to 30 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 12 hours (talktime)
- 115.5x62.1x12.3mm • 135g

For contract and tariff info go to www.o2.co.uk

iPhone 3GS 32GB
£538.30

- Available in black or white
- 3.5-inch widescreen
- 320x480 pixels • WiFi (802.11b/g) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
- Photo and video geotagging
- Battery lasts up to 30 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 12 hours (talktime)
- 115.5x62.1x12.3mm • 135g

For contract and tariff info go to www.o2.co.uk

iPod touch

Updated September 2008

iPod touch 8GB
£165

- Up to 1,750 songs
- Up to 10,000 photos
- Up to 10 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen
- 320x480 pixels
- WiFi (802.11b/g)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
- 110x61.8x8mm
- 120g

iPod touch 16GB
£214

- Up to 3,500 songs
- Up to 20,000 photos
- Up to 20 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen
- 320x480 pixels
- WiFi (802.11b/g)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
- 110x61.8x8mm
- 120g

iPod touch 32GB
£283

- Up to 7,000 songs
- Up to 25,000 photos
- Up to 40 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen
- 320x480 pixels
- WiFi (802.11b/g)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
- 110x61.8x8mm • 120g

>> iPHONE vs iPOD TOUCH

The iPhone is not just a phone – it's also a great iPod. Steve Jobs even called it the best iPod Apple has ever made. But at 8GB the iPhone 3G is not capacious, which is annoying as the 3.5-inch screen just calls out for you to load it up with bulky video files. So far, it's almost identical to the iPod touch, however, as with this model the latest iPhone 3GS comes in a 32GB size, but there are key differences.

The obvious one, of course, is that the iPod touch doesn't have the ability to make phone calls. Fair enough, but remember that this also means that, unlike with the iPhone, iPod touch users won't have access to the internet – browsing, updating weather and stock widgets and sending and receiving email – when out of range of a WiFi hotspot.

The payoff is that an iPhone 3GS costs more. You either have to take out a contract with O2 or buy it Pay & Go from £440.40.

You do miss out on some stuff – the touch lacks many of the iPhone 3GS's new features, including a video camera, voice control, digital compass and, at last, the ability to cut and paste.

The iPhone 3GS is not only faster than the original models but also includes proper GPS; the touch can only triangulate from WiFi nodes.

To find out more about the tariffs for the iPhone 3GS visit **www.o2.co.uk**.

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KEYBOARDS & MICE

Apple Wireless Keyboard

★★★★★

Price: £48 **Reviewed:** Issue 189
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/53760
Key specs: Dimensions: 27x11.5x1.43cm; Connections: Bluetooth only; Power: 3x AA batteries; Requires Mac OS X 10.4.10

⊕ Stunning; wireless; easy to type on; compact
⊖ Needs Mac OS X 10.4.10 to work

"The Wireless Keyboard is superb in every way. It's another design classic from the Apple creative team."

Wacom Intuos4 L ★★★★★

Price: £430 **Reviewed:** Issue 208
Full review: www.techradar.com/590021
Key specs: 5,080lpi res; 2,083 levels of sensitivity
⊕ Sensational technology; dynamic OLEDs
⊖ Expensive; previous tools incompatible

Microsoft Mobile Memory ★★★★★

Price: £50 **Reviewed:** Issue 190
Full review: www.techradar.com/217353
Key specs: Wireless; 1GB memory; RF/Bluetooth
⊕ Innovative cable design; rechargeable; 1GB
⊖ Odd acceleration behaviour

ALL-IN-ONES

Canon PIXMA MP620

★★★★½

Price: £108 **Reviewed:** Issue 202
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/477048
Key specs: Printer (9,600x2,400dpi, 5-ink printing); scanner (2,400x4,800spi); 150 sheets in rear tray and 150 in cassette

⊕ Great print quality; easy to use; good value for money
⊖ WiFi needs to be set up over USB

"The mix of stellar print quality and intelligent design decisions means that the Canon MP620 is a great buy."

HP Officejet Pro 8500 ★★★★☆

Price: £299 **Reviewed:** Issue 210
Full review: www.techradar.com/603509
Key specs: Printer/scanner/email; 4,800dpi
⊕ Packed with features; great text printing
⊖ Average photo printing; expensive

Canon PIXMA MX700 ★★★★☆

Price: £199 **Reviewed:** Issue 191
Full review: www.techradar.com/218276
Key specs: Printer, scanner, copier, fax, OCR
⊕ Good quality scans and prints; lots of features
⊖ No duplex

DISPLAYS

Apple Cinema Display

★★★★★

Price: £1,173 **Reviewed:** Issue 155
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/133337
Key specs: 30-inch screen, 2,560x1,600, 16.7 million colours, DVI display, 2x USB 2.0 ports, 2x FireWire 400

⊕ Superb image; even illumination; built-in hubs
⊖ Need a lot of room to house it!

"Apple has really pulled off a trick with its Cinema Display. Clarity, brightness, contrast and sharpness are top-notch."

Sharp Aquos LC32X20E ★★★★★

Price: £517 **Reviewed:** Issue 194
Full review: www.techradar.com/256594
Key specs: 32-inch LCD TV; 1,920x1,080 res
⊕ Great Mac and TV picture quality
⊖ Need a lot of room to house it!

Apple 24-inch LED Cinema ★★★½☆

Price: £635 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Full review: www.techradar.com/500220
Key specs: 24 inches; 1,920x1,200 pixels
⊕ Oozes quality all round
⊖ Expensive and Mini DisplayPort only

SPEAKERS

Ferguson Hill FH007

★★★★★

Price: £396 **Reviewed:** Issue 186
Web: www.fergusonhill.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/98316
Key specs: 2x high frequency horns; 2x bass speakers; 7Hz-20KHz (+/- 5dB); 8 ohms; 4x 16W RMS

⊕ Great value; fabulous sound; easy to use and set up; stunning and strong
⊖ Take up lots of desk space

"The stunning-looking FH007 system from Ferguson Hill redefines the concept of multimedia speakers for your Mac."

Revo Blok ★★★★½

Price: £195 **Reviewed:** Issue 209
Full review: www.techradar.com/593649
Key specs: Aux input for all recent iPods
⊕ Rich, deep sound; excellent remote
⊖ Not for iPhone; can't sync with Mac

Creative Gigaworks T20 II ★★★½☆

Price: £60 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Full review: www.techradar.com/500205
Key specs: 14 watts RMS; 50Hz-20KHz
⊕ Superb, room-filling sound; solid construction
⊖ Slightly unnatural bass response

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Fujifilm FinePix F50fd

★★★★★

Price: £120 **Reviewed:** Issue 197
Web: www.fujifilm.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/71926
Key specs: 12MP; 35-1-5mm, f/2.8-8 lens system; 1/1.6-inch sensor size; 3x optical zoom; 8.2x digital zoom; image stabilisation

⊕ Great value; top low-light performance; easy to use; looks good
⊖ Guilty of over-sharpening fine detail

"This is a cracking all-rounder with superb low-light performance. The FinePix F50fd is £120 well spent."

Canon EOS 500D ★★★★☆

Price: £763 (body only) **Reviewed:** Issue 209
Full review: www.techradar.com/596771
Key specs: 15.1MP; 4,752x3,168 res; HD recording
⊕ Increased ISO sensor; DV recording; 3-inch LCD
⊖ High price; no external mic

Olympus μ Tough 8000 ★★★★☆

Price: £70 **Reviewed:** Issue 210
Full review: www.techradar.com/603073
Key specs: 12MP; 5-18.2mm lens
⊕ Waterproof to 10m; shockproof; good wide angle
⊖ Controls are awkward to use

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS

Samsung VP-HMX 20C

★★★★☆

Price: £498 **Reviewed:** Issue 202
Web: www.samsung.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/528224
Key specs: 2.7-inch LCD; movie capture at 2.1MP and still image at up to 4MP; HD lens delivering 10x optical and 10x digital zoom

⊕ Good screen; lightweight; offers full HD resolution
⊖ Really need to shop around to find affordable price

"This lightweight HD camera captures high-quality video and still images. Its 80GB internal memory is a plus point."

Canon HV30 ★★★★½

Price: £599 **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/468942
Key specs: HDV; DIGIC II processor; MiniDV/SD card
⊕ Superb stills & video; better than HDD
⊖ Cumbersome to use

Canon HG10 ★★★★½

Price: £540 **Reviewed:** Issue 190
Full review: www.techradar.com/216960
Key specs: HD; 15hrs storage; 10x optical zoom
⊕ Superb images; native support for iMovie '08
⊖ Ergonomic mistakes; opaque menu system

ROUTERS/NETWORKING

AirPort Extreme Base

★★★★★

Price: £139 **Reviewed:** Issue 181
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/31026
Key specs: 1x USB 2.0, 3x Ethernet, 1x WAN; 802.11n, 802.11a/b/g; WEP, WPA, WPA2, MAC address filtering, NAT firewall

⊕ Easy disk mounting; 802.11n; huge range; up to 50 users
⊖ UK restricted to 2.4GHz channel; no modem

"The AirPort Extreme Base Station enables Mac integration and provides a fast, secure wireless network in minutes."

Iomega Home Media ★★★★☆

Price: £110 **Reviewed:** Issue 207
Full review: www.techradar.com/577291
Key specs: 500GB; 1x Gigabit Ethernet; 1x USB 2.0
⊕ Easy to set up and use; elegant interface
⊖ Can't set up playlists

Apple AirPort Express ★★★★½

Price: £65 **Reviewed:** Issue 195
Full review: www.techradar.com/311070
Key specs: 802.11a/b/g/n; WEP, WPA, WPA 2
⊕ Easy to set up; AirTunes; supports Windows
⊖ Still need to add a broadband router

STORAGE

Iomega 500GB MiniMax

★★★★★

Price: £80
Web: www.iomega-europe.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/226173
Key specs: 500GB; 3x FireWire 400, 3x USB 2.0 ports; up to 480MB/sec (USB 2.0) & 400MB/sec (FireWire 400) transfer speeds

⊕ Large capacity; doubles as USB/FireWire hub; Mac mini shape; very fast
⊖ Bit pricey

"The perfect companion to your Mac mini has substantially improved capacity, offering superfast transfer speeds."

Buffalo TeraStation III 2TB ★★★★☆

Price: £667 **Reviewed:** Issue 210
Full review: www.techradar.com/604216
Key specs: 2TB capacity; 2x Gigabit Ethernet
⊕ Fast read/write performance; huge storage space
⊖ Expensive even for capacity; flimsy door

Apple Time Capsule 500GB ★★★★☆

Price: £229 **Reviewed:** Issue 208
Full review: www.techradar.com/589636
Key specs: 1x USB 2.0, 3x Ethernet, 1x WAN
⊕ n & g networks run at full speed; USB disk
⊖ Expensive; no built-in modem; slow first backup

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BUYERS' GUIDE

iPOD ACCESSORIES

iSkin Cerulean TX+RX

★★★★★

Price: £108 **Reviewed**: Issue 193
Web: www.iskin.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/224088
Key specs: Turn iPod into a remote; 10m range; easy USB connection

⊕ Easy setup; wide signal range; great sound transfer
⊖ High price

"This little accessory offers a very obvious improvement over the way people normally use iPod speakers."

Griffin Clarifi ★★★★★

Price: £19 **Reviewed**: Issue 202
Full review: www.techradar.com/476914
Key specs: iPhone 3G case; built-in macro lens
⊕ Macro lens for better quality close-ups; sturdy
⊖ Nothing

Macally TunePro Flat Panel ★★★★★

Price: £80 **Reviewed**: Issue 191
Full review: www.techradar.com/218943
Key specs: 33.5x11.5x13cm; 0.6kg
⊕ Great sound; easy-to-slap snooze button
⊖ Remote sold separately

MAC ACCESSORIES

Pro-Ject Debut III

★★★★★

Price: £195 **Reviewed**: Issue 200
Web: www.project-audio.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/102079
Key specs: Phono/USB turntable with integrated MM phono pre-amp, digitisation of analog signals for recording to disk

⊕ Outstanding sound; high build quality; update-ready and tweakable
⊖ Static crackle required codec update

"The Debut III Phono/USB turntable from Pro-Ject is outstanding - and that's before you add a USB interface."

Elgato turbo.264 HD ★★★★½

Price: £138 **Reviewed**: Issue 209
Full review: www.techradar.com/596751
Key specs: Output: iPod high/standard; iPhone; PSP
⊕ Super-fast H.264 encoding
⊖ No longer supports PowerPCs; expensive

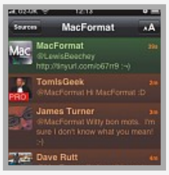
Macally Powerlink 3-in-1 ★★★★☆

Price: £42 **Reviewed**: Issue 206
Full review: www.techradar.com/458087
Key specs: Supports 2.5-inch IDE/SATA; USB 2.0
⊕ Very versatile; convenient for travellers
⊖ Expensive; loose caps easily lost

iPHONE APPLICATIONS

Twitterrific Premium

★★★★½



MacFormat
@LewisBeachey http://tinyurl.com/o67rr9 :-)
TomIsGeek
@MacFormat Hi MacFormat :D
James Turner
@MacFormat Witty bon mots. I'm sure I don't know what you mean! :-)
Dave Rutt

Price: £2.39 **Reviewed**: Issue 210
Web: www.iconfactory.com
System reqs: iPhone OS 2.2 or later
Available from the App Store, directly through your iPhone or via iTunes.

⊕ Lovely interface; beefed-up features list; support for multiple accounts
⊖ Reposting between accounts is tricky; basic stuff needs configuring

"An application that definitely repays the time spent exploring it. A firm favourite."

Birdhouse ★★★★★

"To tweet, or not to tweet: that is the question"
-Shak

Price: £2.39 **Reviewed**: Issue 209
System reqs: iPhone OS 2.1

⊕ Draft multiple Twitter notes before you tweet
⊖ Only useful if you are a complete Twitter addict

LogMeIn Ignition ★★★★☆

Price: £17.99 **Reviewed**: Issue 203
System reqs: iPhone OS 2.0

⊕ Reliable remote control of computers over web
⊖ iPhone's paltry RAM causes problems; pricey

EMAIL CLIENTS

Apple Mail 3.3

★★★★★

Price: £85 (with OS X) **Reviewed**: Issue 198
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/591016
System reqs: 9867MHz Mac, 512MB RAM, 9GB HD space, DVD drive, Mac OS X 10.5

⊕ Easy to install and use; good spam protection; excellent search filters
⊖ Need Leopard for latest version

"Apple Mail is more mature and more reliable than the competition. It's great for home or business use."

Mozilla Thunderbird ★★★★½

Price: £FREE **Reviewed**: Issue 198
Full review: www.techradar.com/142475
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.2 or later
⊕ Excellent spam protections; simple setup
⊖ Not perfect OS X integration

Microsoft Entourage 2008 ★★★★☆

Price: £100 (with Office) **Reviewed**: Issue 198
Full review: www.techradar.com/142428
System reqs: 512MB RAM; Mac OS X 10.4.9
⊕ Ease of use and setup can't be faulted
⊖ No integrated RSS reader

HOME OFFICE

Apple iWork '09

★★★★☆

Price: £69 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/500293
System reqs: G4 (500MHz or faster) processor, Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later, 512MB RAM (1GB recommended).

⊕ Keynote is a market leader, and the rest of the apps are catching up
⊖ Both Numbers and Pages still lack some basic features

"The '09 update sees some good features added and some general improvements. Worth it for Keynote alone."

Berlitz French Premier ★★★★★

Price: £30 **Reviewed:** Issue 210
Full review: www.techradar.com/602887
System reqs: G3 or greater/Intel Mac
⊕ Pronounciation trainer; videos; ideal on the go
⊖ No proper grammar training

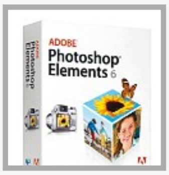
FileMaker Pro 10 ★★★★★

Price: £261 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Full review: www.techradar.com/500402
System reqs: G4/G5; 256MB RAM; OS X 10.4.11
⊕ Script triggers; customisable toolbar; SMTP
⊖ Lacks platform-specific look and feel

VISUAL TOOLS & LAYOUT

Photoshop Elements 6

★★★★★



Price: £68 **Reviewed:** Issue 194
Web: www.adobe.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/224437
System reqs: G4, G5 or multicore Intel processor; OS X 10.4.8-10.5; 512MB RAM (1GB rec); 64MB VRAM, 1GB hard disk space

⊕ Good interface; Guided mode for beginners; Colour Curves
⊖ Layer Masks still tricky; small type on grey; takes over entire screen

"Photoshop Elements 6 is insanely good value for money. It's worth every penny and great fun to use."

ImageWell 3.7.1 ★★★★½

Price: $20 (£14) **Reviewed:** Issue 209
Full review: www.techradar.com/595105
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4.9 or later
⊕ Efficient and feature rich; decent web tools
⊖ Ugly, clunky interface

Realmac RapidWeaver ★★★★☆

Price: £59 **Reviewed:** Issue 208
Full review: www.techradar.com/587724
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.5
⊕ Easy for a beginner, but also advanced options
⊖ Very template based; unimpressive Flash

GAMES

Spore

★★★★★

Price: £29 **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Web: www.spore.com
System reqs: Intel Core Duo processor; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.3; ATI X1600 or NVIDIA 7300 GT; 128MB VRAM; or Intel Integrated GMA X3100, 4.7GB HD space

⊕ Great looks; five great phases; variety of styles; accessible
⊖ Too simplistic?

"Spore is an amazing experience on a huge canvas, but in broad, simplistic brush strokes. It's amazing."

And Yet It Moves ★★★★★

Price: €12 (£11) **Reviewed:** Issue 209
Web: www.andyetitmoves.net
System reqs: G4/G5/Intel 2GHz; 1GB RAM; OS X 10.4
⊕ Looks and sounds great; interesting gameplay
⊖ Too short

Qwak ★★★★★

Price: £13 **Reviewed:** Issue 210
Web: www.qwak.co.uk
System reqs: 5.5MB hard drive space
⊕ Old-school gameplay, 80-plus levels
⊖ It's all about points

MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE

Apple Logic Studio

★★★★★

Price: £312 **Reviewed:** Issue 189
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/227009
System reqs: G4/G5 1.25GHz processor; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.4.9+; 1,024x768 screen; QuickTime 7.2 or later; 7GB HD space

⊕ Awesome power; sounds great; unbeatable value; intuitive interface
⊖ Old users may baulk at the new-look interface

"Apple Logic Studio is a comprehensive professional music package. And it's unbeatable value for Mac users."

Apple iPhoto '09 ★★★★★

Price: £69 (part of iLife '09) **Reviewed:** Issue 206
Full review: www.techradar.com/527969
System reqs: G4/G5; 512MB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.6
⊕ Practical tools; new options to export slideshow
⊖ Faces could be better; few cameras have GPS

Apple iTunes 8 ★★★★★

Price: £FREE **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/468551 **System reqs:** G3+; 512MB RAM; OS X 10.4.9
⊕ Genius feature; HD movies on Store; Grid view
⊖ Genius recommendations affect performance

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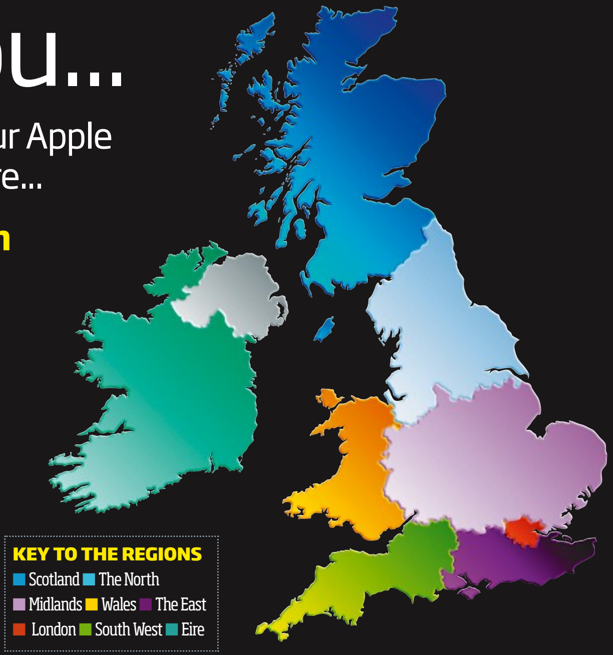

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On the disc

● FULL SOFTWARE ● EXCLUSIVE DEMOS ● ESSENTIAL SHAREWARE ● READER OFFERS

Welcome to the disc
Issue 211

These days we're immersed in a deluge of web development buzzwords. If you're starting out in the coding arena it's difficult not to feel like you're drowning in terms such as AJAX, WSDL, SOAP and UML. However, hope lies in another abbreviation, WYSIWYG or 'What You See Is What You Get'. This is a method of creating websites through manipulating visual assets; ideal for anybody who finds the prospect of getting down and dirty with the raw code slightly daunting.

Often, the software packages offering this feature can be expensive. But fear not, *MacFormat* is offering you a great free full package in the form of *Flux 1*. While apps such as *Rapidweaver* and *Sandvox* are very much template-driven, *Flux* has this ability, but also expands on this by giving you total control over the look and feel of your website and not forcing you to conform to pre-installed themes with the odd adjustable parameter. In addition, the simple GUI makes adding advanced additions to your site's functionality such as *JavaScript* actions, embedding *PHP*, *Flash*, *Java* and even *Ruby on Rails*, a cinch.

> *"If you're starting out it's difficult not to feel like you're drowning in an ocean of acronyms"*

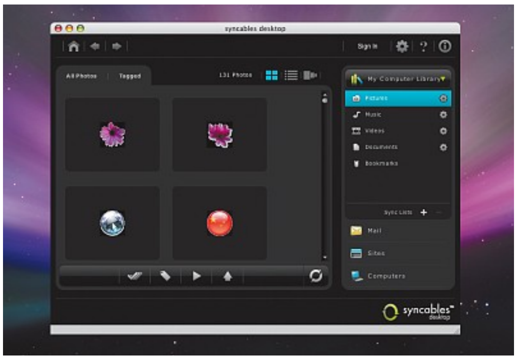
Each issue, New Media Editor Simon Holland selects a fantastic array of software for you to enjoy on your Mac.

>> FEATURED SOFTWARE

Syncables Desktop

Migrate content using version SE 5.1.1.153 of this app

This full product is great for syncing files from machine to machine. It syncs not only documents but also music, photos, videos, email and even browser bookmarks. There's a great option to transform your network into a virtual media hub with shared media accessible for playback on any *Syncables* networked PC. The *Syncables Desktop Sampler Edition* is limited to two operating systems support and seven items to synchronise at a time.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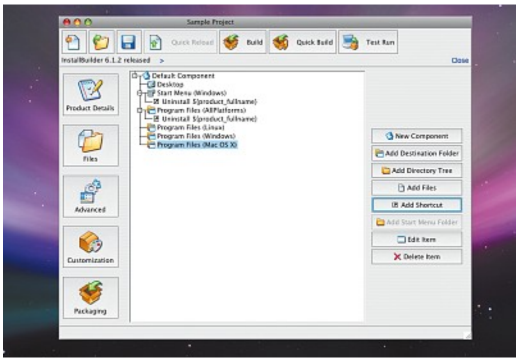
Syncables Desktop is ideal for syncing files across machines.

>> FEATURED SOFTWARE

InstallBuilder 6.1.2

Easily build a set-up file for your all applications

The last thing on a programmer's mind is how the software is packaged for the end user. But it shouldn't be. People tend to opt for a dedicated set-up package that copies files to a destination selected by the user rather than a zip archive where you're forced to manually copy files between folders. This full product makes packaging and deployment easy. Should you want to roll onto other operating systems, you'll need to upgrade. Find more details opposite.


Sample Project
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Build
Quick Build
Test Run
InstallBuilder 6.1.2 released
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Default Component
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Start Menu (Windows)
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Program Files (Linux)
Program Files (Windows)
Program Files (Mac OS X)
New Component
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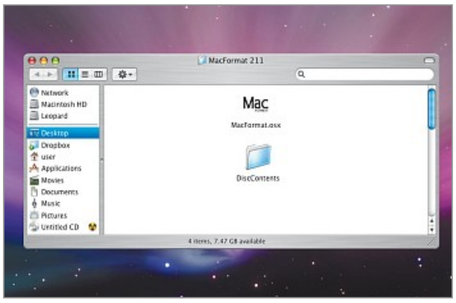
Add Start Menu Folder
Edit Item
Delete Item

This software makes app packaging and deployment a total breeze.

HOW TO / Install the programs on your disc



01 Loading the disc

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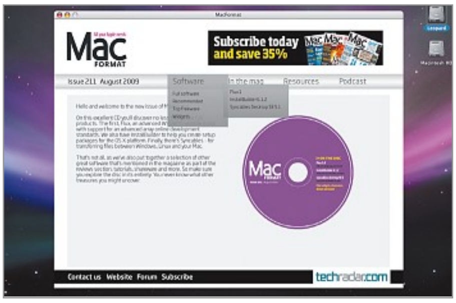
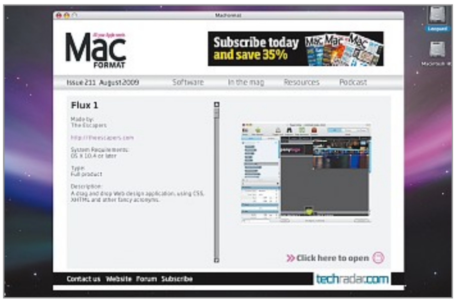


02 The software

Once loaded, accept the terms and conditions in order to go to the homepage. From here you can click **Software**, **In The Mag** or **Podcast**. The first two lead to sub-sections, which contain the software tools.



03 Getting the apps

Selecting an item will load details about the software. To delve straight into the app, click **Click here to open**. An installer will load or you will go to a window to extract the archive or execute the set-up file manually.

Full disc contents

The complete list to what you'll find on your disc this issue

TOP FREEWARE

BirthdayScanner X 2.2.2
ClipMenu 0.3.5
iPhoto gridSaver 1.1
Keywurl 1.4b6
LeopardAssist 2.3.3
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Purre b0.4
SelfControl 1.2.1
SizzlingKeys 3.3.3

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MacPips Jigsaw Puzzle 1.2

IN THE MAG

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BetterZip Quick Look Generator 1.1
BrushViewQL
iGlasses 2
QLColorCode 1.1
QuickLook plugin
SneakPeek Pro 1.2.1
SongGenie 1.1.1
Suspicious Package 1.1

Podcast

MacFormat This Week: 1 June 2009
MacFormat This Week: 15 June 2009

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Buy more InstallBuilder licences at 15% off
BitRock is offering 15% off the purchase of any new *InstallBuilder* licence to *MacFormat* readers until 30 September, 2009. To claim your discount, enter the code "MCFT2009" during the purchase process.

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In the unlikely event of your disc being defective, please email our support team at **support@futurenet.co.uk** for further assistance. If you would prefer to talk to a member of our support team in person, call **01225 822743**. If you have comments about the software we include or you have suggestions for software that you would like to see on future discs, please email to Simon Holland, New Media Editor, at **simon.holland@futurenet.com**

On your disc

Find three full programs plus a selection of widgets, tutorials, reviews and freeware

Mac
FORMAT
ISSUE 211 / August 2009

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Future Technology coverdisc

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Interface

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